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Further on Prime Minister's Visit to U.S.

Interviewed Before Departure

PM3008193593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 31 Aug 93 First Edition pp 1, 5

[Aleksandr Shalnev report featuring interview with Russian Prime Minister V. Chernomyrdin: "Viktor Chernomyrdin: I Have No Intention of Asking for Anything in the United States"]

[Text] Viktor Stepanovich Chernomyrdin received me exactly eight hours after the time scheduled for the interview. My entire working day was spent waiting in the premier's anteroom.

Naturally no one said: "Sorry to keep you waiting so long." But having looked at the groups of people or individual people pacing up and down the long corridors at Staraya Ploshchad, hanging around, or sitting in other ceremonial anterooms waiting for their time—long since past—to come, having seen enough of these scenes I realized that had apologies been made to everyone who was waiting, there would not be enough time or words.

I have never seen such long vigils in the corridors of the Washington White House although, if you work it out, U.S. presidents and their top personnel are also probably extremely busy people. But were there to be a delay of even 15 minutes, they would be profuse in their apologies...

I recalled my experience in the United States because IZVESTIYA's interview with the Russian premier was arranged on the eve of Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit to the United States, a visit that began last Sunday [29 August] in Houston, Texas. The program for the visit is full and well rounded, but I think that it would be good were our premier and his aides to find an hour or two to acquaint themselves with the way in which the White House organizes dealings with visitors—even if they are from the press—and the way in which they value and respect not only their own, but other people's time.

To be fair I must point out that the day of our interview—last Friday [27 August]—was a crazy day for the premier: Early in the morning he visited one installation, then he received U.S. Ambassador Thomas Pickering, who spent almost 90 minutes with Chernomyrdin instead of the official 30-40 minutes; then it was to have been my turn, but Shakhray appeared and, after saying "difficulties in Ossetia and Ingushetia," disappeared behind the massive door, which saw Shumeyko enter half an hour later and Shokhin after another 40 minutes shouting: "Give me a few seconds."

They likewise later went their separate ways in turn. When I asked "What's new?" Shumeyko gave a broad grin. I didn't have time to bat an eyelid before Soskovets, Gerashchenko, and a man of American appearance rushed into the premier's office. Two and a half hours later the man confirmed that he is indeed an American, a "private individual," and was sincerely amazed when asked "Is the prime minister really prepared to spend two and a half hours with an ordinary private individual from the United States?": "He evidently considers my advice interesting."

"Viktor Stepanovich," I asked the premier, "who was this man?"

"A prominent industrialist and economist. This was not the first time that he has been here. Is his advice useful? His view of certain issues largely coincides with our actions, with the work program that we recently made public. However," Viktor Stepanovich added, "the American was surprised as to why this program has gone unnoticed in the West. A speech by some personality—from the government, for instance—makes a big splash in the United States, but here we have a whole program and not a word about it. Isn't that, the American remarked, because it is associated with Chernomyrdin. And I replied: I don't know; perhaps, I said, someone there doesn't like my face."

I did not find out what kind of an American he was, but I could not help but draw an analogy with the situation in the Washington White House: I don't remember the U.S. President or vice president spending two and a half hours listening to advice from Russian private individuals. Our premier is naturally not an exception, but the rule in the top, middling, and lower echelons of Russian power. We were indeed, regrettably, the land of the soviets [pun on russian sovet which means advice and the institution—soviet].

Going through the recording of the interview again, I see that, although it was prepared "on the eve of the visit" to the United States, foreign policy did not put in much of an appearance and, in terms of interest, it cannot compare with what Viktor Stepanovich said about domestic affairs. I would also rank as "domestic" what he said about the situation involving the Kurils, or, looking at it from the Japanese angle, the "northern territories." Is he ready, I asked the prime minister, to confirm what he said during his recent visit to the Far East, which instantly caused a stormy reaction in the Land of the Rising Sun and was to some extent repudiated by President Yeltsin and the president's press secretary Kostikov?

"I said once again and I will always say, as long as I live," the president replied, "we have no intention and had no intention of surrendering anything to anyone. That is my conviction, both personally and as head of the government. As for the options (Yeltsin mentioned them—A.Sh.), there are various approaches. We can expand mutual cooperation, set up joint enterprises, resolve the problems, of which there are loads and which must be resolved in a neighborly fashion. But why must we surrender something first in order to be good friends? Why must we bribe people to be friends with us? We don't want anyone else's land, but nor will we surrender our own to anyone. Not to Japan, but also not to other

countries who are trying to play this card today. Incidentally, there seem to be more people in our country, in Russia, in favor of surrendering something than there are over there..."

The premier was equally adamant when the talk turned to Western aid as a whole and U.S. aid in particular for Russian reforms.

"I have no particular intention of asking for anything in the United States. There is no question of aid, much less of charity. We have long since been working on an equal footing with the Americans and we are delighted to avail ourselves of U.S. specialists' advice. Advice is aid, but credits are not. Credits form a yoke around the neck. Credits have to be paid for... We need to cooperate. And I still don't know who is helping whom do what. We will be helping them develop an orbital station, they earn over $2 billion from this."

"And how much do we earn?"

"Everything we earn will be ours. We will not go into precise details. By and large I would say... When we talk of aid, with your (the premier is referring to journalists—A.Sh.) assistance we must undoubtedly be dragging ourselves through the mire and presenting ourselves to our people in such a way that it looks as though we are constantly asking for something. Have you ever heard Chernomyrdin ask anyone for anything? Write this down: I have not asked and will not ask for anything. I will only ask for one thing—for us to be recognized as equals in all things and admitted to markets without any discrimination. But we will never have terms set or dictated to us."

"In the United States will you raise the question of enlisting investment in our oil and gas industry—on a scale similar to U.S. investment in Kazakhstan?"

"Cooperation is my thing. Let them work where they want to, we will not object. But we will not impel, appeal, or campaign for them to do this." The premier did, however, say that on that day, last Friday, he signed a government decision, which opens the way for work to begin on the exploration of the Sakhalin shelf, with the participation of U.S. companies among others.

Here is another comment on foreign policy matters. A comment that may be deemed a mini-sensation. According to Chernomyrdin, he does not expect the Americans to raise the question of sanctions against Russia in connection with the nonwithdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania. As you know, several days ago the State Department publicly threatened us with sanctions and, in particular, with canceling the accords on aid worth around $700 million.

"That issue was not raised," the premier said, referring to his conversations with the Americans on the eve of his departure. Nor was this issue raised during the premier's meeting with Ambassador Pickering on Friday. It looks as though the State Department is bluffing or setting public opinion at rest, more correctly that section of it which is capable of causing the U.S. Government a heap of trouble.

Lastly. The premier said that Russia has both supplied and will continue to supply rocket engines to India and that Moscow is ready to accede to the Missile Technology Nonproliferation Regime tomorrow, but that its joining "depends on those who admit us." The major row that broke out in our relations with the United States over missile shipments to the Indians and twice caused the postponement of the prime minister's visit to the United States does indeed seem to have almost blown over.

But whether the series of rows and conflicts within the Russian Government is blowing over is another matter. The premier himself thinks that there will be "strong words" in the government in the future, that it will "come to resignations," but all this will be handled "in a civilized way."

The premier did not go into details as to what this way would be, but he did give some hints. The main premise being that "If there is not strong talk in the government, what kind of government is it? I don't want that kind of government. We have already had governments like that where one man speaks and everyone just listens and nods their head. Everyone must uphold their own opinion, be persuasive, and prove their point. But that does not mean that discussions within the government must be broadcast to the whole country and the whole world..."

Chernomyrdin was sharply opposed to anyone "resigning, as soon as he is shouted at" and, somewhat retracting and almost correcting his own words, added: "There is no such word as 'resignation.' A government can resign, but a minister will be punished and removed."

The premier did however admit that Fedotov was not removed, that the minister resigned "for political reasons, and I think that he is a good guy. I think that he resigned in a courageous, noble, and dignified manner. I agree with him."

As for Glazyev, in the view of the head of the government, he "takes everything painfully and emotionally." The premier attributed the resignation statement by the minister of foreign economic relations "more to youth and inexperience in this business." Experience, it emerges from Chernomyrdin's statements, is when a person reacts very calmly and coolly to hectoring tones, checks, and suspicions. "After all if we go back into history we will see that things also reached the point where there were shoot-outs in these organizations [delo i do rasstrelov dokhodilo v etikh organizatsiyakh] (foreign economic organizations—A.Sh.). That is what these organizations are like, the temptation is always there."

The point of the premier's remark, as I understood it, is this. So there have been accusations, there has been an uproar in the ministry, there have been checks, but

nothing more terrible than that, and should Glazyev have done all this because of it? Viktor Stepanovich explained the minister's reprimand in very simple terms: "For shortcomings in the ministry's work. The minister is responsible for everything."

The talk turned to Poltoranin. "Mikhail Nikiforovich," the premier said, "has done absolutely nothing bad to me or I to him. We have excellent relations. There is talk that Chernomyrdin won't accept Poltoranin, won't take him on. But is it really a matter of Chernomyrdin? During a recent meeting of television leaders many people said that Poltoranin should head the Press Ministry. Why should Chernomyrdin object?"

This quality of the prime minister's—his desire to phrase his answer so as to ensure that a clear rebuke to the premier's critics even if they are not named is read in it—was displayed fairly frequently during our conversation. Stressing, for instance, that "all the government's activity is designed to check the rate of inflation" and admitting that "there are simply no remedies for it," Viktor Stepanovich complained: "We are asked: 'How will you fight inflation? What have you thought up?' You may think that I lie in bed and think about this. I do think when I am lying in bed, but about other things, like any normal person."

"What did you think about," I asked matching the premier's tone, "when you were last lying in bed?"

"I rarely lie in bed. Five hours, no more," the premier once again became emphatically serious. "I don't get more. I have to think about everything; therefore there are just five hours left to think about everything."

(A fleeting detail: It was quite unusual to enter the premier's vast office with its weighty bulky furnishings and see the premier not in a dark "suit," but in a greenish jacket covered in a small check. I remember how the press mercilessly hounded Ronald Reagan when he appeared in the White House—where it was obligatory under Republican administrations for male and female clothing to be a dark, funereal color—in his favorite clothes dating back to his years as an actor—plaid suits or, worse still by Washington's standards, brown suits. Well, in Texas, where our premier is at the moment, all colors and any combinations of colors are fine and run-of-the-mill).

Once again we have a response to invisible opponents and tiresome questioners who often put the following question to our prime minister, a question which he does not consider to be worded correctly: "What is your attitude to political parties?"

"I still can't see any parties, not normal ones. Where are these parties. I recently flew around the Far East and asked the following question everywhere: Do you have parties? In response I was told: 'We have heard about parties, you have parties in Moscow, but, where we are, three people walk down the streets, they represent a party, they cause an uproar.'"

If I understood Viktor Stepanovich correctly, in this situation he has difficulty understanding who wants to suggest to him which coalition government. However, the premier does not object to consultations with anyone —"I met with Baburin, with others, and others still"—or to contacts: "Go on, please, come along, sit down, make your suggestions. But they still don't make any suggestions."

After this, the premier spoke somewhat casually, I thought, of the "Civic Union" program, which has been submitted to him: "There it is, read it, if you have time," but he stressed that his own government's program, which has recently been published, is the "fruit of tremendous work by many, many people. We listened to everyone, we did not avoid anyone, nor did we hide anything from anyone. This is our concept: Today it is necessary to consolidate forces, today when our country has to be extricated. Everyone must be aware of this: If we love our homeland, if we love Russia, it must not be torn to pieces. The task is not after all to shout louder or make finer speeches, but achieve the main thing: ensure that prices in the stores do not rise, ensure that they do not rise at such a pace. If only everything were geared toward that. But nothing of the sort. Things are geared to precisely the opposite. And I think that some people would like to act on the following principle: The worse things are, the better. Some people would like to bring down Chernomyrdin's government."

"You may think," the premier continued, "that others will come along and will be better. There is no one better today. Not because Chernomyrdin is here, but because Chernomyrdin has been learning from bitter experience for a year now. And there is hardly anyone in the country who knows more than Chernomyrdin about what he knows. There are no people like that today."

"Including the president?" I asked doubtfully.

"What has the president got to do with this? The president is the president. And I am part of the president's team."

Ties Focus on 'Practical Actions'

PM3008152593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Aug 93 p 1

[Pavel Shinkarenko report: "Unsensational Cooperation. Viktor Chernomyrdin To Arrive in United States 29 August"]

[Text] Being shown around the U.S. power and aerospace centers in Houston and the Saint Louis nuclear power station, visiting the Cape Canaveral missile test center, having negotiations with President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore, participating in the intergovernmental commission on cooperation in power engineering and space, meetings with business people... This is far from everything which has been included in Russian Government head Viktor Chernomyrdin's program for his visit to the United States. But even this list

shows that the ties between our countries have left the realm of political declarations and entered that of specific practical actions.

"Recently, all we have been concerned with has been Russia 'discovering' America and America 'discovering' Russia," Valentin Sergeyev, leader of the Russian Federation Government Press Service, explained. "But now that the framework for mutual relations between the two countries has been set up, openness is increasing between us, and business people are appearing on the scene who are conducting actual negotiations without making any political conditions. Viktor Chernomyrdin's visit represents a qualitatively new point in the development of Russian-American relations."

Valentin Sergeyev also reported that it is proposed that a package of important bilateral documents be signed during the forthcoming visit. They include an intergovernmental agreement concerning international trade in the area of commercial services, a memorandum of mutual understanding in respect of questions of the export of rocket equipment and technology, and a number of contracts between companies from the two countries.

Meeting With Oil Representatives

LD3008221393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 2054 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS special correspondent Ivan Ivanov]

[Text] Houston (Texas), 31 Aug—The Russian Government "gives great importance to developing existing contacts and establishing new, mutually beneficial contacts with American partners in the oil and gas industry," said Viktor Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers, on Monday [30 August] at a meeting with representatives of the oil and gas industry in Houston.

The prime minister told American business representatives about the actions of the Russian leadership aimed at forming market relations in the economy and in power engineering and at providing guarantees for foreign investors. At the same time Viktor Chernomyrdin pointed out that the measures undertaken in 1992-93 to free prices for oil and oil products are already making possible a gradual transition to the relationship existing in external markets between prices for energy sources and for the material resources required to produce them.

"At the present time," Viktor Chernomyrdin continued, "Russian-American cooperation in the oil industry is to a large extent directed toward prospecting for and developing oil deposits, the practical settling of problems in raising the output of oil-bearing strata, and refining oil. Greater opportunities for cooperation are being opened up by the program under way in Russia for converting the defense industry to tackle problems in power engineering and in the oil industry in particular." The Russian prime minister sees American equipment-producing companies' interest in establishing the production of equipment at Russian enterprises involved in the oil and gas industry, which will be competitive on the world market, as a direction with possibilities.

Speaking about cooperation in the area of investments, Viktor Chernomyrdin distinguished three main areas for their attraction: the restoration and repair of oil wells which are out of production; an increase in production at wells already in use; and the bringing on line of new oil deposits. According to estimates by Russian experts, he added, no less than 400 oil deposits could have prospects for development in 1995-2000.

The head of the Russian cabinet expressed the certainty that "Russian-American cooperation in the area of power engineering will develop and strengthen in the interests of our countries." "I am sure that the visit to the United States by a Russian Government delegation will be of practical assistance to the broadening and deepening of business connections with Russia, not only in the area of the oil and gas complex but in power engineering, the aerospace business, and—if we are to look a little broader—for the whole field of economic and political cooperation between our two countries as well, the organic integration of Russia into the world economy," Viktor Chernomyrdin emphasized.

On Monday the head of the Russian cabinet also met representatives of Marathon and MacDermott. These two companies, together with Mitsui, Mitsubishi, and Royal Dutch Shell, have set up a consortium which has developed the technical and economic basis for developing two oil deposits on the Sakhalin shelf. During the meeting Viktor Chernomyrdin made it known that a decision had been made on going over to the next phase of cooperating with the consortium. As of 1 September, beginning negotiations on conditions for the future joint activity between the consortium and Russian enterprises on Sakhalin. The bringing to fruition of this major project, which demands a capital investment of around $10 billion for the first phase alone, will settle the issue of delivering energy resources to Sakhalin and to a range of regions in the Far East, develop the social infrastructure of the island, and create new jobs there. The region will also receive additional hard currency due to the sale of some of the crude to Asia Pacific countries.

On Monday the Russian prime minister was at the Houston signing ceremony of a paving agreement between the Russian "Gazprom" joint-stock company and the Enron corporation on joint plans for natural gas power stations in Europe. The agreement envisages establishing new markets for Russian natural gas in the European power engineering industry.

Grachev Cited on Purpose of Upcoming U.S. Visit

LD3108135193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1252 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS military observer Andrey Naryshkin]

[Text] Alabino, Moscow oblast, 31 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—A "document on further cooperation in the military sphere" will be signed at defense minister level during my official visit to the United States which starts on 8 September, [Defense Minister] Army General Pavel Grachev told journalists at the Taman Division today.

The itinerary includes a meeting with U.S. President Bill Clinton at which, Pavel Grachev surmised, an exchange of opinions may take place on the military-political situation on the Euroasian continent.

The minister will also be briefed in detail on military training of the U.S. Armed Forces and will compare Russian Federation and U.S. experience in this field.

Kozyrev Visits Switzerland, To Attend Talks on War Victims

LD3008144193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1431 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Sergey Ryabikin]

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—"It is wrong to say that Russia pursues a pro-Western or pro-Eastern foreign policy," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said before his departure to Switzerland on Monday [30 August].

This is the first visit to Switzerland by the head of the Russian Foreign Ministry. During the trip Kozyrev will visit Geneva and Berne. He will hold talks with the Swiss president and foreign minister. The sides are expected to sign several documents, including an inter-governmental declaration of cooperation which will provide the basis for interaction between Russia and Switzerland both on a bilateral basis and in the international arena.

"The trip to Switzerland has been prompted not only by the fact that this is the first visit to that country by the Russian foreign minister since 1917, but also by an international conference devoted to issues of prime importance—containing destruction and ending bloodshed and conflicts which the world community is facing in Yugoslavia, Somalia and the territory of the former Soviet Union," the minister said.

He will take part in the conference on the protection of victims of wars and armed conflicts which opens in Geneva on August 30. The conference initiated by the Swiss Government will focus on human rights in war zones and ways to prevent violations of international humanitarian law. Over 100 countries are expected to take part in the forum.

Asked to comment on the Russian parliament's decision to set up a commission to investigate into the activities of the Foreign Ministry, Kozyrev said the ministry is ready for constructive cooperation with the commission if its members intend to study its problems in a civilised manner and provide help, primarily financial.

It is necessary that the parliament starts working on some laws the absence of which seriously hampers the ministry's activities, including the law on peace-keeping forces. He regretted that the parliament has not discussed the law yet.

He said Russia is ready to withdraw troops from the Baltic republics on a civilised basis if "our partners do not put forth absurd demands and are ready to work for mutual agreement. Russia is always ready to respond to such approach," Kozyrev said.

Comments on Geneva Conference

LD3008190993 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Excerpts] Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev today started his visit to Geneva, where he will participate in the international conference for the protection of victims of war which opened today. [passage omitted]

[Correspondent A. Usupov] The international conference that Andrey Kozyrev is flying to Switzerland to participate in today has a very practical angle to it, the foreign minister says. At this meeting the envoys of different countries will discuss the possibility of ending the use of several types of weapons in the world's numerous national conflicts, including on the territory of the former Soviet Union. The international community, says Kozyrev, is today facing military conflicts of a new type not covered by international humanitarian law.

[Begin Kozyrev recording] While efforts are being made to end conflict, it is important to make sure that the parameters of basic civilized behavior are not exceeded. Today we are asking whether air forces should be excluded from these conflicts, along with salvo fire systems. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Yeltsin Statement on War Victims

LD3008133293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1324 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin urged the world community on Monday [30 August] to mount efforts to protect victims of war and armed conflicts.

He said in a statement circulated by his press service that Russia proposes a "complex of actions aimed at uniting the efforts of the world community to ensure efficient protection of victims of armed conflicts"

Conflicts are becoming a disaster of our times as thousands of peoples perish in them, the foundation of civilisation is being ruined, Yeltsin said.

"The most terrible thing is that humanity is beginning to get used to reports about sophisticated methods of destruction of people during combat activities, cruel treatment of the wounded, prisoners of war, civilians.

Open terror is in use, mass deportations are encouraged, hostages are seized and dead bodies are vandalised", the president said.

"We need to turn this disgraceful page of our history as soon as possible. It is necessary to supplement the international community's efforts to prevent and settle conflicts by taking urgent steps to alleviate their grave consequences for the people in war zones," the president stressed.

Yeltsin emphasised that Russia remains true to traditions of humanism and mercy and sees its duty in prodding the world community into strengthening protection of the victims of international and domestic conflicts.

The Russian leader suggested several ways of achieving this. They include measures aimed at combining efforts of various countries to provide effective protection for the victims of armed conflicts. He added that this will require an atmosphere of inadmissibility and denunciation of any violations of humanitarian law. Time has come to wake up and mobilise the huge potential of international legal means of protection of the victims of conflicts which has been accumulated by humankind, Yeltsin said.

Yeltsin stressed the need for reconsidering the existing international legal methods in order to narrow down the "limits of permissiveness" in war. He also called for establishing a system of monitoring and rapid response of the world community to violations of military laws.

The prime question is the punishment of war criminals, Yeltsin said. "Life has shown that the authority of national legislature is not high enough in such matters. There is a need for an effective system of international justice in its military-criminal dimension and the creation of an 'international procurator's office'," Yeltsin said.

"We will supplement efforts at the global level—within the U.N. framework—with regional measures, primarily within the CIS and the CSCE," the Russian president added.

"In Russia we also need to work in order to bring our legislation in line with harsh realities of our troubled time when the flame of war fires has reached Russian borders and many of our citizens have become hostages of military madness," Yeltsin said.

Kozyrev Addresses Conference

LD3108133293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1259 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Shabayev]

[Text] Geneva August 31 TASS—"It is difficult to name a more acute and urgent international issue than the protection of war victims. It is precisely this issue that made it necessary to convene this conference," Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev said here on Tuesday [31 August], addressing the current international conference on the protection of war victims.

Kozyrev recalled that Russia stood at the rise of modern humanitarian law, the fundamental principles of which had been first formulated 125 years ago in the St. Petersbug declaration.

Nowadays, the Russian delegation leader pointed out, the world community witnesses armed conflicts of a new type, when combat operations are quite often conducted by paramilitary forces, not regular armies. Wide use is made of mercenaries and, quite often, criminal elements, to whom violence is a way of life and the source of monetary gains.

Acts of brutality and marauding committed in such conflicts were qualified by Kozyrev as the result of aggressive nationalism and xenophobia. This is why the point is not just to comply with international law, but also to protect mankind's moral potential on the threshold of the 21st century, he said.

The Russian minister pointed out that Russia, confronted with the need to issue a rebuff to aggressive nationalism and extend a helping hand to the victims of nationalism, views peacemaking as the centre-piece of its foreign policy. Substantial results have already been achieved in this respect: an end to bloodshed has been put at such flashpoints as the Dniester region, South Ossetia, and Abkhazia. Next in line is a transition to a political settlement there, he said.

Having highly appreciated the lofty activities of international humanitarian organisations, primarily the International Red Cross, Kozyrev emphasised that the main task now is to strengthen and guarantee the principles of humanitarian law and see to it that they become a must not only to states but also to the sides involved in civil wars and inter-ethnic conflicts.

This is precisely the purpose of Russia's specific proposals contained in a document entitled "Russian humanitarian initiative" and circulated at the conference.

The document's nine points set out a comprehensive programme for the development of an international system to protect the victims of armed conflicts. The programme envisages in particular measures to protect the civilian population from weapons of indiscriminate effects, to protect a wide range of civilian facilities, including religious and cultural ones, from attack or destruction.

Russia also suggests that international protection be extended to peacekeeping forces, humanitarian convoys, transport for refugees, and that the inevitability of punishment for persons guilty of breaches of the norms of humanitarian law be ensured, which would require the elaboration and adoption of an international war crime

prevention code which would determine specific sanctions for the perpetration of war crimes.

The enlistment of the efforts of the world public for a rebuff to the escalation of violence and barbarous cruelty would be promoted by the U.N. General Assembly's designation of 1994 as the year of the protection of the victims of armed conflicts.

The delegates to the Geneva forum, according to opinions being exchanged in the lobby of the conference, note the Russian delegation's constructive and specific contribution to the work of the conference.

Kozyrev, Butrus-Ghali Discuss Bosnia

LD3108132593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1254 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents Konstantin Pribytkov and Boris Shabayev]

[Text] Geneva August 31 TASS—Russian Foreign Minister Andrey Kozyrev, currently visiting Geneva, met U.N. Secretary-General Butrus Butrus-Ghali on Tuesday [31 August] to discuss cooperation between Russia and the United Nations in their peace-making efforts.

Addressing journalists after the meeting, Kozyrev spoke highly about the role of the Security Council and the secretary-general, laying special stress on the United Nations cooperation with Russia in settling conflicts on the territory of the former USSR.

"The United Nations always appears in places where it is most needed and sets correct tasks before itself," the Russian minister said. "This is most important," he added.

Thanking Russia for its contribution to the work of the United Nations and for its efforts to enhance the organisation's role on the international arena, Butrus-Ghali said that he had asked the minister about the possibility of Russia's joining additional forces that are to be dispatched to Bosnia and Herzegovina to exercise control over the implementation of a future agreement to settle the conflict there.

Replying to journalists on this score, Kozyrev said that Russia's readiness to take part in U.N. peace-keeping operations depends on decisions by the Security Council and on pending agreements. "We shall examine our possibilities after the functions of these forces and their mandate become clear," Kozyrev stated.

Churkin Meets Bosnian Negotiators on Eve of Talks

LD3108083093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0600 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Konstantin Pribytkov]

[Text] Geneva August 31 TASS—Ways to settle the conflict in Bosnia and Herzegovina were discussed on Monday [30 August] during consultations held here by Vitaliy Churkin, special representative of the president of Russia and deputy foreign minister.

Churkin met with Thorvald Stoltenberg and David Owen, co-chairmen of the Coordinating Committee of the Conference on the Former Yugoslavia, a delegation of Bosnian Serbs led by Radovan Karadzic, member of the collective presidency of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Fikret Abdic, one of the leaders of the Muslim community.

Those meetings were held within the framework of preparation for Tuesday's regular round of direct talks between the leaders of the three conflicting Bosnian sides—Muslim, Serbian and Croatian.

Each side is expected to set out its own point of view on the draft treaty on comprehensive settlement, which envisages the creation of three republics united into an alliance in Bosnia.

An appropriate package of agreements was worked out during consultations held in Geneva from July 27 to August 20. At the end of last week, the package was supported at respective sessions by the parliaments of the Bosnian Serbs amd Croats, whereas the Muslims expressed a negative attitude to the draft treaty, stating, though, that it might serve as a basis for a continuation of the negotiating process.

Commander of Detachment in Bosnia Interviewed

LD3008200993 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Interview with M.I. Faleyev, commander of the Russian Army detachment in Bosnia-Herzegovina, by correspondent Vladimir Solovyev in Belgrade; date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Solovyev] The humanitarian convoy of the Russian State Committee for Emergency Situations, apart from its normal routes to Sarajevo, is now carrying humanitarian cargo to the Muslim enclaves of Srebrenica and Tuzla. Because its tasks have been expanded, the Russian detachment has now been divided into two parts. Almost every day each of them covers routes to places whose names more often than not are heard in the battle reports from the fronts of the war in Bosnia.

[Faleyev] We are carrying loads of food and medical supplies to the Muslim enclaves and the Bosnian Serbs. We go where the situation demands, where the urgent cargo needs to be sent immediately.

[Solovyev] Your roads run along what are probably now the most dangerous places in Europe. How do the local Serbs and Muslims react to you?

[Faleyev] With the friendliest of receptions we have received from many people both here in Belgrade and along the roads, we must particularly speak about the cordial attitude of the Serbs. But still, there are instances when the attitude toward us has been negative. Naturally, this is linked with the fact that there has been a watershed event in many families; in many families relatives and loved ones have been killed. We are carrying cargo with, for example, humanitarian aid to Muslim enclaves. Many—the Serbs, for example—see this as aiding their enemies. So reaction has been varied. You have seen our vehicles; the glass has been smashed on many of them. Our vehicles have been fired at many times in forward positions. We are equipped accordingly to reduce danger to a minimum.

Burbulis Discounts Chernomyrdin Remarks on Kurils

OW3108141493 Tokyo NHK General Television Network in Japanese 1000 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Announcer-read report on interview with Gennadiy Burbulis, chief of the Russian Strategy Center, by NHK correspondent Kazuo Kobayashi in Moscow on 31 August—recorded; in Russian with Japanese subtitles, translated from the Russian]

[Text] Russian Strategy Center Chief Burbulis, a close aide to President Yeltsin, granted an interview to NHK prior to his visit to Japan the day after tomorrow. Mr. Burbulis is scheduled to visit Japan on 2 September at the Foreign Ministry's invitation to collect information about President Yeltsin's visit to Japan. During his stay in Japan, Mr. Burbulis plans to hold talks with Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and other Japanese officials.

Mr. Burbulis stated that Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's remarks that Russia will reject negotiations with Japan on the northern territorial issue does not reflect the views of the Russian presidential office.

[Begin recording] [Burbulis] It would have been just to include the territorial issue in a system, in an adequate system of multilateral and mutually profitable relations between Japan and Russia. There is the strategic policy of the state, and there are the concrete living conditions of the concrete people on concrete territories. Today, we must match the demands of the strategic interests of both Russia and Japan with the interests of those concrete residents on whose territory this political issue is unfolding today.

[Kobayashi] He expressed his personal concern about this problem.

[Burbulis] I think that this is his personal position and not the opinion of Mr. Chernomyrdin [as heard], and it does not reflect the approaches existing today in the Russian Federation in a complete and comprehensive way. What is more, it does not correspond to the reality which we have just discussed. [end recording]

It seems strange that Mr. Burbulis, who is not a government official, asserts that the prime minister's remarks are his personal opinion. However, Mr. Burbulis's assertion is based on the fact that the one who actually deals with diplomatic affairs is the president at the Kremlin and that the influence of close aides to the president is sometimes larger than that of government officials, including the prime minister. Mr. Burbulis, one of close aides to the president, stated that the purpose of his upcoming visit to Japan is to collect as much information as possible on the new Japanese Government and to brief President Yeltsin on the information.

Will President Yeltsin's visit to Japan take place? How will the northern territorial issue be dealt with during the president's visit to Japan? It is expected that the results of Mr. Burbulis's visit to Japan will affect these issues.

Tokyo Talks Fail To Firm Up Yeltsin Visit Plans

PM3108142193 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 31 Aug 93 p 7

[Nikolay Tsvetkov report: "The Fall Is Approaching And Our Man Is Still Not There"]

[Text] Tokyo—Russian-Japanese consultations at deputy foreign minister level were held in Tokyo last weekend. The Japanese delegation was headed by Hiroshi Fukuda, the Russian by Georgiy Kunadze.

This report on the event could end here, as the consultations yielded no specific results. The main topic of discussion was to be Boris Yeltsin's upcoming official visit to Japan. If the Japanese newspapers are to be believed, however, there is the small proviso that the sides failed to reach a clear conclusion as to whether the visit will take place at all. Kunadze intimated that the question is not decided at his level. The president personally decides whether to go to Japan or not. The Japanese recalled that the president had publicly expressed his opinion—and more than once—that it is necessary to go.

Kunadze proposed they should wait until the end of September, when both countries' foreign ministers rather than their deputies will meet in New York. The Japanese expressed concern that the end of September is somewhat late. If the visit is scheduled for mid-October (and Boris Yeltsin has said this) there will be no time at all left between its official announcement and its actually taking place.

Georgiy Kunadze coolly left the Japanese clutching their demands and departed for Seoul (while the rest of the delegation, comprising two high-ranking Foreign Ministry officials, returned to Moscow).

Perhaps the situation regarding the president's visit will be cleared up, at least to some extent, by Gennadiy Burbulis, who is expected in Tokyo on 2 September. He has a high political rating among the Japanese, judging

by the fact that Prime Minister Hosokawa and his deputy, the head of the Foreign Ministry, intend to meet him.

Kunadze Visits Seoul for Talks on Relations

LD3108092693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0737 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul August 31 TASS—Upon completing his trip to Japan, Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Georgiy Kunadze arrived in South Korea on Tuesday [31 August] to discuss current issues of bilateral relations with representatives of the Seoul government.

During his four-day stay in Seoul, Kunadze is expected to meet with South Korean Foreign Minister Han Sung-chu and his South Korean counterpart Hong Son-yong.

The Seoul press points out that during the forthcoming talks South Korea is to inform the Russian side of its decision to discontinue the granting of credits which Seoul had promised to the former Soviet Union.

This stance has been prompted by the protracted delay in the repayment of R[illegible]'s debts concerning the already used part of credi[illegible]

Along with that, the South Korean side intends to touch upon issues connected with the tenth anniversary of the downing of the KAL passengrer airliner by a Soviet fighter plane. The anniversary falls due on Wednesday.

The results of a probe into the incident, made public by the Russian State Commission in Moscow on Monday, dissatisfied Seoul. The commission's conclusion that Russia bears no responsibility for the incident has been viewed here as an attempt to evade paying compensation, on which South Korea insists.

KAL Commission Reaches Same Conclusions as ICAO

PM3008155193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Secret of KAL Flight 007's Destruction Must Be Revealed"]

[Text] The concluding session of the Russian Federation State Commission to investigate the incident of 1 September 1983 involving a South Korean Boeing 747, flight KAL-007, took place 26 August 1993 in the Kremlin. This commission was formed in accordance with a directive of the Russian Federation president in 1992.

This important political initiative by Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin, which called for a painstaking and objective investigation into the circumstances of the incident and an assessment of the results of the tragedy in 1983, was well received by world public opinion. Embracing the agreed proposals from Russia, the Republic of Korea, the United States, and Japan, the International Civil Aviation Organization [ICAO] adopted a decision to restart and complete the investigation of this incident. Almost the whole range of modern aviation science and technology has been used in this investigation. Russia was represented by specialists of the Interstate Aviation Committee, which was set up by an edict of the Russian Federation president as an independent investigation agency, and also by staffers of Russian Federation ministries and departments and scientific research institutes.

The conclusion of the Russian Federation State Commission's report is absolutely identical with those of the International Commission which carried out its work under the aegis of the ICAO. The final document was signed by all the state commission's members and was confirmed by Chairman S.A. Filatov, leader of the Russian Federation President's Administration.

Naval Squadron Arrives in South Korean Port

LD3108090593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0734 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Ivan Zakharchenko]

[Text] Seoul August 31 TASS—After visiting China, a Russian squadron of Pacific Fleet ships arrived in the port of Pusan on the south-eastern coast of the Republic of Korea on Tuesday [31 August] for a friendly visit.

The squadron, which consists of the large anti-submarine ship Admiral Panteleyev, the destroyer Bystriy and the tanker Pechenga, is headed by Vice-Admiral Igor Khmelnov, first deputy commander of the Pacific Fleet.

The squadron's current five-day visit—the first one since 1904 when the Russo-Japanese war had begun—is being made within the framework of an exchange provided for by the memorandum of understanding on the development of contacts between the defence ministries of the two countries in 1993.

The memorandum is known to have been signed in November last year during Russian President Boris Yeltsin's trip to Seoul. At the end of September two South Korean navy ships are to pay a return visit to Vladivostok.

The exchange of naval squadrons' visits, started by the two countries, will serve to deepen trust, mutual understanding and friendship between the two peoples and will promote stronger security in northeast Asia, points out the South Korean Defence Ministry's official communique which has been circulated here.

Spokesman Says ROK May Ignore Fishing Ban

OW3008133093 Vladivostok Radiostantsiya Tikhiy Okean Maritime Network in Russian 0715 GMT 27 Aug 93

[From the "Pacific Ocean" Program]

[Text] South Korea may resume fishing in the central part of the Sea of Okhotsk in spite of Russia's recent introduction of a unilateral fishing moratorium, the local representative of the South Korean state administration for fishing affairs has announced here.

He said South Korean President Kim Yong-sam has addressed a letter to Russian President Boris Yeltsin noting that the decision to forbid fishing by foreigners in the Sea of Okhotsk has harmed South Korean fishermen and that they have no choice but to resume fishing.

The position of Seoul Government has not changed since then, but the question of when exactly fishing will be resumed has not been settled yet. Seoul told the Russia leadership through diplomatic channels earlier this year that since the controversy involved waters outside the 200-mile Russian economic zone, its decision was viewed as a breach of the norms of international law. However, South Korea stopped fishing in the international section of the Sea of Okhotsk in answer to the Russian request, which is based on the belief that unchecked fishing of Alaska pollock in the region is creating a threat to all fish resources in the Russian Far East.

The two sides began talks last June, and they are supposed to resume soon to clear up any remaining differences.

As the [words indistinct] newspaper notes, the South Korean Government has demanded that the Russian Government issue an additional quota for fishing in another economic zone, and is waiting for a reply from the Russians. If this demand is not met, fishing will resume in the Sea of Okhotsk.

South Korea used to catch from 110,000 tonnes to 300,000 tonnes of cod annually in the region.

U.S. Imposition of Sanctions Against China Viewed

PM3108125593 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 27 Aug 93 First Edition p 3

[Vladimir Skosyrev report: "Beijing Does Not Hide Its Irritation"]

[Excerpts] Beijing—U.S. Secretary of State W. Christopher's warning a month ago to Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen has come true. Washington has imposed economic sanctions on Beijing.

The sanctions announcement brought a pained response from Beijing. This decision has after all demonstrated that the United States is serious and may indeed deprive China of most-favored-nation status in trade if it does not fulfill Washington's demands on human rights observance and arms exports. And that step would deal a crushing blow to the plans for China's integration into the world capitalist economy. [passage omitted]

Observers here think that Beijing realized that it might incur a U.S. embargo, but decided to ignore the threat and fulfill a contract concluded earlier with Islamabad. A comparison could be drawn here between Beijing's and Moscow's approaches to the transfer of missile technology to the Indian subcontinent. Russian diplomats explain that for us involvement in arms control is a matter of principle. Russia intends to continue trading in arms strictly in accordance with existing international regulations.

Shipments of sophisticated arms to South Asia undoubtedly increase the risk of a nuclear conflict between India and Pakistan. Both these countries, which have for many years now been on the brink of war, have the ability to produce atomic bombs. That is why Washington has applied sanctions to Islamabad as well as Beijing.

Yeltsin Thanks All Who Helped Free Border Guards

LD3008144993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1440 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin has expressed appreciation to all people who helped free and return four Russian and one Kazakh border guards captured by Afghan Mojahedin, the presidential press secretary said on Monday [30 August].

The president expressed the hope that the soldiers' return and the will displayed by the Afghan side would help ease tension on the Tajik-Afghan border and facilitate the soonest possible settlement of the conflict.

Border Troops Commander on Tajik-Afghan Situation

LD3008202593 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Interview with Major General A. I. Tymko, chief of staff of the Russian Federation border troops, by correspondent Aleksandr Shkirando, place and date not given—live or recorded; from the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] [Shkirando] Clearly, there is no point in speaking about the complicated mechanism connected with the release of our border guards; it is better to thank and congratulate all those who were directly involved in this operation. But I would like to know what the situation is like on the border now. Judging by the reports it is still complex.

[Tymko] Yes, there is a tendency, of course, for the development of the situation on the border to be complicated at the moment. I have to say that everything is

being done today to try to normalize the situation on the border, and in the light of the Russian president's decree of 27 July of this year, efforts continue to grow, and several measures are being carried out jointly with the Defense Ministry to ensure that the border is reliably closed and protected.

[Shkirando] Yet, according to some reports, there have been some direct contacts with the Afghan side. By that, I mean the groups situated on Afghan territory.

[Tymko] Yes, I have to state today that a new phenomenon in relations between our border guards and those of Afghanistan, and a number of Afghan structures that are of a state hue or a state slant, is the fact that we have concluded an agreement with them so that we can solve by peaceful means those problems which arise.

[Shkirando] Adherence to these principles was also reaffirmed in the joint communique of the heads of the two neighboring states—Tajikistan and Afghanistan. All questions, the document points out, will be tackled by way of talks. With this purpose, it has been decided to set up a Tripartite Commission with the participation of representatives of Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and the UN High Commission for Refugee Affairs. It is thought that the dialogue that has begun between Dushanbe and Kabul will not be confined merely to the release of the border guards, but will help to lift the tension that has developed along the border.

Tonight there were more explosions in the area of the 12th post of the Pyandzh Border Detachment. A Russian border guard was killed in the crossfire. Over the past week alone, Russian border guards have had to thwart eight attempts of an armed breach of the Tajik- Afghan border.

Border Crossing Attempt Thwarted

LD2808085193 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0806 GMT 28 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Andrey Yarushin]

[Text] Moscow, 28 Aug—"No Russian border guards were injured during a clash with militants attempting to break through to Tajik territory from Afghanistan", an ITAR-TASS correspondent was told today at the press service of the Russian Federation Border Troops.

According to more specific information, at 2230 on 27 August a unit of the 12th border post sector of the Pyandzh border detachment found that an armed group of about 20 intruders were attempting to break through into Tajikistan. When intercepted, the press service of the Russian Federation Border Troops said, the intruders opened fire on the border troops from automatic weapons. As a result of the combat which ensued three intruders were killed and three arrested. The remaining militants retreated to the territory of Afghanistan.

Moves for Tajik-Afghan Settlement Reviewed

PM2708131793 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 1

[Igor Sukhanov feature: "How Should the Conflict Be Settled?"]

[Text] The situation on the Tajik-Afghan border has remained relatively calm in the past 24 hours. But the danger of new provocations by Tajik opposition gunmen and Afghan mojahedin remains. Nevertheless, active moves to settle the conflict are being undertaken in Dushanbe, Moscow, and Kabul. This is what your ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI correspondent managed to find out about this.

Moscow. Embassy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan. Embassy Press Secretary Omar Rasuli on the line:

"The Government of the Islamic State of Afghanistan considers the armed conflicts to be Tajikistan's internal affair, and does not consider it possible to interfere in any way in the internal affairs of a neighboring state. At the same time, the Government of Afghanistan considers it necessary to participate in the process of finding a peaceful settlement to the conflict. Back in April 1993, President B. Rabbani of the Islamic State of Afghanistan put forward an initiative to begin trilateral talks between Tajikistan, Afghanistan, and the Russian Federation on this problem. Two months ago, President B. Rabbani proposed that the number of participants in the talks should be increased, and that Uzbekistan should be included. The latest peace initiative has come from Prime Minister G. Hekmatyar who, at the end of his visit to Saudi Arabia, announced his readiness to act as mediator in the process of a peaceful settlement to the military conflict on the Afghan-Tajik border. The Embassy of the Islamic State of Afghanistan has received reports that the command of the 55th Division of Afghanistan's Armed Forces has concluded an agreement with the military on the Tajik side of the border to end the bloodshed. Admittedly, there is a grouping within this division that is not obeying the command and is encouraging and assisting the gunmen of the opposition to carry out armed attacks on the territory of Tajikistan. A meeting between government delegations of Afghanistan and Tajikistan will be held in the immediate future, where all possible paths to a peaceful settlement of the conflict on the Afghan-Tajik border will be examined. The time and place of the delegations' meeting is being determined at the moment."

Dushanbe. Ministry of Defense. Valeriy Uyanayev, first deputy minister and chief of the Republic of Tajikistan Armed Forces Main Staff, on the line:

"In the cause of settling the military conflict on the border, the leadership of Tajikistan is trying to use peaceful means exclusively. Incidentally, in this sense, our republic's stance is being greeted with full understanding in Kabul. I am convinced that the leadership of the Islamic State of Afghanistan has the same sincere

aspiration. As one of the leaders of the Republic of Tajikistan Ministry of Defense, I state with authority that no proposals have been made by the 55th Afghan Division to sign any agreements on putting an end to the bloodshed. And indeed we would not sign any documents at all at this level. As far as I have been informed, a representative delegation from the Republic of Tajikistan will fly out to Kabul in the first half of September to conduct talks on a peaceful settlement to the military conflict on the border. As far as the gunmen of the opposition are concerned, they are simply earning the money spent on them by recruiters from the extremist opposition in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia. I think that the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border will also be stabilized by the participation in the settlement of coalition forces from Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, and Russia, an agreement on the creation of which was signed a few days ago in Moscow. In think that questions concerning the participation of Afghan servicemen in these peacekeeping forces will also be examined during the Tajik-Afghan talks. The more quickly coalition peacekeeping forces appear on the border, the more quickly the conflict will be settled."

Moscow, Russian Federation Foreign Ministry, Leonard Moshkovtsev, chief of Central Asia Department, on the line:

"Russia's stance is that this conflict cannot be overcome by military means, although the border must undoubtedly be reinforced, particularly since, as a result of the agreement of CIS heads of state in Moscow, the Tajik-Afghan border has been recognized as a CIS border. At the latest sitting of the Interdepartmental Working Group, a plan for a peaceful settlement to the military conflict on the Tajik-Afghan border was ratified. It provides for the following spheres:

"1. The granting of all possible assistance to the leadership of the Republic of Tajikistan in its efforts to find a political settlement to the situation in the country and on the border.

"2. The stepping up of diplomatic activity in states in the region, with the aim of settling the conflict on the border. Primarily in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Saudi Arabia... Talks will be held in Kabul in the immediate future and a delegation at the level of Russian Federation Foreign Ministry leaders will most likely visit the northern areas of Afghanistan, and meetings may be held with representatives of the Afghan and Tajik opposition and field commanders. Any efforts by China and India to settle the conflict on the Tajik-Afghan border will only be welcomed by the Russian Foreign Ministry.

"3. The use of UN mechanisms. The UN Security Council has just discussed the statement by the Security Council chairman on the situation on the Tajik-Afghan border. Russian diplomats took part in preparing this statement. Consultations have been held with the U.S. Department of State on the problem. We welcome the mission to Tajikistan by the UN secretary general's special envoy Kittani and we are prepared to receive him in Moscow to discuss ways of settling the conflict. We are working together with the Tajik Foreign Ministry on involving the CSCE mechanism in the work of settling the conflict.

"4. Diplomatic endeavors are being undertaken within the framework of the CIS. A special document, designed to coordinate the joint efforts of the CIS countries in the international arena to settle the situation in Tajikistan, was adopted at a conference on Tuesday."

Yeltsin, Turkmen President Discuss CIS Summit

LD3108060393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0550 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By TURKMEN PRESS for ITAR-TASS]

[Text] Ashgabat, August 31 TASS—Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev will visit Turkmenistan early in September to settle several issues of military cooperation between the two former Soviet republics, the Russian and Turkmen presidents agreed in a telephone conversation late on Monday [30 August].

Boris Yeltsin and Saparmurad Niyazov also discussed the forthcoming CIS summit scheduled for September 7. The Turkmen president briefed his Russian counterpart on his stance regarding the creation of an economic union and on his approach to its structure and functions.

Both presidents expressed satisfaction with the development of equal and beneficial cooperation between the two countries and pledged to exert maximum efforts to promote friendship and understanding between their peoples.

Policy Toward Georgia Seen Changing To Favor Stability

PM3108095393 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Aug 93 Second Edition p 2

[Vasiliy Kononenko report: "Resistance of Advocates of Continuing Georgian-Abkhazian Conflict Apparently Overcome"]

[Text] An hour-long meeting was held between Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin and Georgian Supreme Council Chairman Eduard Shevardnadze at the Kremlin on 23 August.

At its close the Georgian leader told journalists the following:

"The main question discussed at the meeting was the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict. The Russian president and I expressed satisfaction at the fact that correct steps for a cease-fire had been taken and that conditions for a final resolution of the conflict are being created. We discussed the question of the return of refugees—that is perhaps the most acute problem—

while the possibilities for creating organizational structures to implement those tasks were also examined."

Answering a question from IZVESTIYA about the factors which enabled the cease-fire to be secured in Abkhazia, the Georgian leader commented as follows:

"First," he said, "we have acquired some experience, albeit bitter experience, in making progress toward peace. Second, we have seen the participation in that process of observers from the UN Security Council. The Russian president and I welcomed their mission. As far as the situation in Transcaucasia and the Caucasus as a whole is concerned, the settlement of the Georgian-Abkhazian conflict will boost the peacemaking process throughout the region. Russia's position here is important above all because President Yeltsin advocates the territorial integrity of Georgia. The status of Abkhazia will be determined in Georgia's new constitution, which is currently under preparation."

People from Shevardnadze's entourage expressed the following off-the-record considerations to your IZVESTIYA correspondent:

Whereas the Russian leadership previously adhered to the principle of sacrificing Georgia in order to retain its own influence in the Caucasus, it subsequently became increasingly inclined to the idea of supporting Georgia in order to have a stable Caucasus. In the view of my interlocutors, the first option was supported by certain officials from Yeltsin's entourage. They cited in this context the example whereby the latest armaments appeared on the Abkhazian side after the meeting between Abkhazian Supreme Soviet Chairman V. Ardzinba and Yu. Skokov. At this moment it has 12 Grad multiple-rocket launchers, four long-range howitzers, and the latest Nona launchers, with which the Russian Army itself has not yet been equipped. They also reported that intensive work had been carried out on the first option by other high-ranking figures in the Russian leadership, including theparliament and the Defense Ministry. The situation is now changing, but complete peace on Georgian soil is still a long way off. In Georgia itself the positions of nationalist forces are still strong and they—my interlocutors did not seek to hide this—could paralyze Shevardnadze's efforts to extricate the country from war.

Lithuania To Abolish Some Transit Tolls

WS3108071293 Kaliningrad SVOBODNAYA ZONA in Russian 24 Aug 93 p 2

[Report by N. Gerasimova: "Free Transit Allowed to Few"]

[Text] Approximately 20 of the largest enterprises in Kaliningrad region will most likely be exempted from transit tolls and police checks of cargo when transporting goods via Lithuania. The Kaliningrad Oblast administration has presented a list of such enterprises to Lithuanian Government authorities. The documents are currently being reviewed.

This arrangement came into being following a meeting in Vilnius between representatives of the oblast administration and the Lithuanian Ministry of Industry and Commerce.

Originally, the list had included about 40 enterprises, but was cut at the request of Lithuanian authorities. The list (there is only a verbal statement of approval) of exempted enterprises, which has yet to be approved, includes the Yantar shipbuilding plant, the Kaliningrad Railroad Car plant, and the Kvarts electronics factory. Selection of the enterprises was based on the volume of cargo.

The transit toll set by the Lithuanian Government currently runs between 5 and 35 percent of the cargo's declared value. Payments can only be made in hard currency or lits. Obligatory police escorts have been introduced on certain kinds of cargo, including liquor, tobacco products, and nonferrous metals.

Deputy Foreign Minister Views Mideast Peace Process

LD3008131293 Moscow Radio Moscow World Service in English 1110 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The Arab-Israeli talks on a Middle East settlement are resuming in Washington on Tuesday [31 August]. Here is an interview granted to Radio Moscow by the Russian First Deputy Foreign Minister Anatoliy Adamishin.

The first question to him was about the attitude of Russia to a Mideast settlement.

Russia wants the Mideast conflict to be ended as soon as possible, said the senior Russian diplomat. I'm making this obvious point only because Russia is alleged sometimes to be reluctant about the ending of the conflict. It wants supposedly in this way to have a chance to play on the contradictions of the two sides and to keep supplying one of them with arms. No. This conflict is too close to our borders and too many problems are linked with it. The conditions for our influence on ending the crisis are somewhat different from what they used to be. Earlier we had no diplomatic relations with Israel for years. We now have good relations, both with the Arab countries and with Israel, and we are trying to act. We are interested in the conflict being stopped.

Does the senior Russian diplomat see a possibility for having any concrete results at the Arab-Israeli talks?

There are possibilities for solving the problem, though they are not easy to find. For this reason, both Israelis and Arabs have now to exercise a real art of diplomacy, but the main requirement is political vision so as to find the narrow path for reaching accords. There have now

appeared cool-headed policymakers, both among Arabs and among Israelis. I would say that earlier Israel didn't have common sense in its strategy about a settlement. As I see it, the present Israeli Government is acting from realistic positions. There are sober-minded policymakers on the other side too, and I primarily mean the Palestinians. It is thus necessary to stop the extremists from having it their way again so as the sober-minded forces could reach a solution. Russia maintains contacts with both sides to the conflict. On our own and together with the United States we are now helping in all possible ways to have a peaceful settlement in the Middle East.

Diplomat Expresses 'Sober Optimism'

LD3008162893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1556 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Boris Krivosheı]

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—A Russian high-ranking official has expressed "sober optimism" about the 11th round of the Arab-Israeli talks which are due to begin in Washington on Tuesday [31 August].

In an interview with ITAR-TASS on Monday, a high-ranking Russian diplomat who asked not to be named said that the "Palestinian-Israeli direction" is more promising from the point of view of reaching agreement on joint documents. The upcoming talks should focus on prospects for reaching an agreement between Israel and Palestinians about the introduction of temporary self-government in Gaza Strip.

The diplomat said the Russian and U.S. co-chairmen of the Middle East peace conference directed their efforts towards achieving this goal. They held active discussions with the participants in the multi-lateral talks on the Middle East peace settlement both in the region and in Washington and Moscow.

"We think that if the upcoming round of talks agrees a declaration of principles of introduction of self-government in the Palestinian territories, this will be the first big success in settling the Middle East problem," the diplomat said.

Political Issues

Yeltsin Removes Deputy Chairmen of Security Council

LD3108102093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1004 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 31 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin removed two deputy chairmen of the Security Council in connection "with their transfer to another job", according to presidential decrees signed Monday [30 August].

The two are Yuri Nazarkin who headed the Department of Strategic Security and Vladislav Nasinovskiy who was in charge of the Information and Analytical Centre.

V.G. Kosarev Appointed Defense Ministry Information Chief

PM3108102793 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 26 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report under the "Appointments" rubric]

[Text] By an edict of the Russian Federation president, Colonel Vladimir Grigoryevich Kosarev has been appointed chief of the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense Press and Information Directorate.

Shumeyko Rules Out Working With 'Outdated' Supreme Soviet

LD3008164093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1620 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Fomichyova]

[Text] St. Petersburg August 30 TASS—Russian First Deputy Prime Minister Vladimir Shumeyko ruled out any cooperation with the present-day parliament because the latter had taken over the functions of the former Soviet Communist Party.

"The current Supreme Soviet is outdated as a political body, it began to fulfil the functions of the (former) CPSU", he told a press conference on Monday. "For objective and subjective reasons we can no longer constructively work with acting parliament. Today it is impossible to agree on any issue with it. The Supreme Soviet every time demands the resignation of the government and the creation of a government of national salvation", he said, adding that a new government would face the same problems as the current one and "Russia will only lose time".

Shumeyko said the adoption of a 23 trillion [ruble] budget deficit by parliament was a "political move" aimed to discredit the government which is either to fulfil it by boosting inflation or to disregard it thus giving new grounds for resignation demands. "For the time being we are implementing the budget submitted by the president to parliament", he told TASS.

Shumeyko backed President Yeltsin's initiative to create the Council of the Federation uniting heads of Russian regions.

The council should substitute for the current parliament in future, according to Shumeyko. "176 members of the Council of the Federation can, according to the new constitution, become a chamber of the parliament and it will only remain to elect the second chamber—the state assembly", he said.

But Shumeyko kept the door to the new legislature open for some current lawmakers. "I think that some bright deputies can be reelected. Then, instead of contrapposition the society would get constructively cooperating branches of authority", he stressed.

Criticizes 'Omnipotent' Parliament

LD3108082593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0724 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Moscow August 31 TASS—"The political body, known as the Supreme Soviet of Russia, is, unfortunately, fully omnipotent today," First Vice-Premier of the Russian Federation Vladimir Shumeyko told St. Petersburg TV viewers on Monday [30 August]. He described this as "the most destructive" factor, preventing the mobilisation of all the sound forces of Russia to implement democratic reforms.

This collective representative body which should adopt all its decisions jointly, Shumeyko stated, now has a Presidium and a chairman. Hence, one man is now vested with the right to adopt a whole line of decisions. Therefore, Shumeyko draws the conclusion, "while getting rid of the omnipotence of the CPSU, the Political Bureau and the secretary-general, we have run up against an equivalent replacement: Instead of a Political Bureau, we now have a Presidium of the Supreme Soviet, and instead of a secretary-general—its chairman".

Asked about "the impact upon the country's sociopolitical situation of the president's recent statement that he planned to take this September resolute steps in the struggle for reforms", the first vice-premier pinpointed among such actions the decision to set up a Council of the Federation. He described this version as "the most peaceful one" among the steps that could today be offered to Russia in order to surmount the political crisis, because, the vice- premier stressed, 176 men, representing 88 subjects of Russia, are precisely the people that "are really tackling today all the problems on their territories". Shumeyko believes that the proposal to turn this council into a consultative body was a half-measure. He noted that he also had an extreme version of the method to overcome the crisis, which is also "most peaceful". In his opinion, the council should be turned into a power structure that could serve as the higher chamber of the Federal Assembly during the transitional period.

New Chief Editor of Parliament Paper Interviewed

PM2708143593 Moscow KOMSOMOLSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 1

[Interview with L.P. Kravchenko, chief editor of weekly IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV RF, by Andrey Podkopalov; place and date not given: "Look Who Has Returned"]

[Text] It became known recently that Leonid Kravchenko, head of All-Union Television under M. Gorbachev, is returning to big-time politics. This time he will play on R. Khasbulatov's team—as chief editor of the weekly IZVESTIYA SOVETOV NARODNYKH DEPUTATOV RF [News of the Soviets of Russian Federation People's Deputies].

[Podkopalov] Leonid Petrovich, who specifically offered you the new job?

[Kravchenko] I heard about this first from ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA Chief Editor Logunov when we were invited to see Khasbulatov together.

[Podkopalov] Was Ruslan Imranovich's choice not partly influenced by your image as a person who is prepared to fulfill someone's will unquestioningly?

[Kravchenko] I believe that it simply came to be realized that it was time to bring back professionals in all spheres. I do not wish to boast, but it was precisely under me that the newspaper TRUD achieved a record circulation and that "Vzglyad," "Before and After Midnight," and live linkups appeared on television, but I am still being accused of smothering them.

[Podkopalov] Good, you are a professional, but what is professionalism without convictions?

[Kravchenko] I have been and still am a committed supporter of the soviets, and I have never concealed this. I am in solidarity with Khasbulatov. If parliament and the soviets are somehow broken up today or tomorrow, this will mean the end of democracy in Russia and a new, modified totalitarianism.

From the Editorial Office

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet failed to bring the newspaper IZVESTIYA to its knees. It was then that parliament decided to start up its own IZVESTIYA. You have to have special concepts of professional honor in order to agree to such an offer from the Supreme Soviet.

Federation Council Working to Yeltsin's Benefit

MK2708132093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 3

[Radik Batyrshin report under the "Opinion" rubric: "Federation Council as Parliament's 'Bane'. Supreme Soviet's Nervousness Plays Into Boris Yeltsin's Hand"]

[Text] The meeting of the Council of Heads of Republics in Petrozavodsk has become the Russian parliament chief's main irritant. Ruslan Khasbulatov made an unforgivable blunder by flatly dismissing the idea of the Federation Council, calling it "a mongrel entity." The Russian parliament chief's strong aversion to the Council of the Federation has alienated heads of regional soviets, who have traditionally been loyal to him. What is particularly important for the latter, especially the chairmen of kray and oblast soviets, is direct access to Boris Yeltsin, which the Council of the Federation will give them. This is why the alternative to this body proposed by Ruslan Khasbulatov—meetings of heads of Federation components to be held each quarter—looks not very enticing to the generals of the periphery. Yuriy Voronin, Russian Supreme Soviet deputy chairman, speaking at a closed-door meeting at the White House on the eve of the anniversary of the State of Emergency Committee's attempted coup, called the Council of the Federation a way to dissolve the Russian parliament. The word about dissolution that slipped out from the White House reached Sakha (Yakutia). Yakutian President Mikhail Nikolayev unexpectedly backed Boris Yeltsin as he called for early elections, which, according to him, may just as well be called by the Council of the Federation. The closed-door meeting itself was an attempt to dampen the "Petrozavodsk euphoria" among heads of soviets by the threat that "the Supreme Soviet will be dissolved under the pretext of clashes on 20 August." The presidential team was quick to exploit the vituperations against the Council of the Federation. From 21 to 25 August, Sergey Filatov, chief of the presidential administration, and Supreme Soviet Deputy Chairman Nikolay Ryabov, who has fallen from Khasbulatov's graces, held consultations with heads of the executive and representative branches of krays and oblasts to discuss the regulation on the Council of the Federation, its charter, and rules of procedure. According to a high-ranking official from the presidential administration, none of the heads of kray and oblast soviets—the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet's bulwark in the periphery—rejected the idea of setting up the council. Heads of krays, oblasts, and autonomous okrugs agreed that this would be a deliberative-consultative body to be set up not by presidential edict, but by a special agreement between all Federation components. Under the draft regulation on the council, it will be headed by Boris Yeltsin, and Ruslan Khasbulatov and Viktor Chernomyrdin will be its cochairmen. Their deputies will include one of the heads of the Council of Federation Components and one of the chiefs of the executive branch. Thus, in the presidential team's view, the agreed draft regulations on the Council of the Federation repudiate allegations that this will be a "body in someone's pocket." It will be recalled that the Council of the Federation had already existed in the Russian Federation in 1989 and survived only two meetings, because its members ceased to heed Boris Yeltsin's recommendations. This is why the presidential administration is not afraid of Ruslan Khasbulatov's influence at the stage of the council's organization. According to that same

official, they are more concerned about "the possibility of pressure by the head of parliament on the chiefs of soviets after the Council of the Federation begins its deliberations." On Friday, Nikolay Ryabov is to deliver a report on the status of the consultations to the Supreme Soviet, of course if he is given this opportunity.

The real snag on the way to the Council of the Federation, however, is the stance by the republics. The heads of 20 former autonomies (the other 68 components include krays, oblasts, and okrugs) are unlikely to be pleased with the provision of the rules of procedure saying that the requisite quorum at Federation Council meetings is two-thirds of its members and that decisions are deemed to have been made if 50 percent voted for them. Therefore the voting procedure will be of crucial importance for them. It is an open secret that the Council of the Federation is a prototype of the would-be upper chamber of a new parliament, and under the protocol to the Federation Treaty, 50 percent of seats on the chamber are to be given to national-state entities. There is another important factor: The heads of republics are presently unwilling to lose the counterbalance to Boris Yeltsin presented by the Supreme Soviet and the Congress. Hence, the conclusions whereby the president will secure the votes of people's deputies at the Congress through the Council of the Federation can hardly be deemed irrefutable. In reality, by facilitating the creation of the Federation Council, Boris Yeltsin has rather obtained a temporary political counterweight, having won the sympathy of heads of soviets who were formerly loyal to Ruslan Khasbulatov. What is also clear is that the nervousness displayed by his opponents at the sight of the Council of the Federation gives the president a start until the upcoming congress in the fall, which will enable him to deal precision strikes during another currently popular pastime—a propaganda campaign against corruption—and also to complete a "purge" in his team.

Muscovites Polled on Government, Leaders, Elections

MK2708134693 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No 46, 27 Aug 93 (signed to press 26 Aug) p 3

[Unattributed report under the "Sociology" rubric: "Muscovites Support Boris Yeltsin and Accuse Government of Amateurishness"]

[Excerpts] The All-Russia Center for the Study of Public Opinion asked 2,152 Muscovites questions ranging from confidence in political figures, performance of the government, whether there should be parliamentary elections, and some other questions.

The survey showed that the Viktor Chernomyrdin cabinet is regarded as competent and professional by as little as 13.1 percent (the Nikolay Ryzhkov government scored 19.3 percent, and the Yegor Gaydar government 26 percent). At the same time, 37.9 percent think the present government virtually completely corrupt, with 40.1 percent of those polled thinking that corruption affects only some of its members. [passage omitted]

Most of the Muscovites who answered the questions (59.1 percent) are confident that the situation in the country is going to improve if the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is reelected this fall. Those who did not think so comprise 29.5 percent.

As many as 36.3 percent of those polled are convinced that in no circumstances should the course of reforms be altered or stopped (something respondents usually connect with Boris Yeltsin's possible reelection). In addition to President Yeltsin, Muscovites have confidence in Aleksandr Rutskoy, 22.9 percent; Grigoriy Yavlinskiy, 13.6 percent; Svyatoslav Fedorov, 12.4 percent; Sergey Shakhray, 12.4 percent; Yegor Gaydar, 10.9 percent; Vladimir Shumeyko, 10.2 percent; Yuriy Luzhkov, 8 percent; and Viktor Chernomyrdin, 7 percent, among other people.

Central Russian Regions Support Federation Council

LD2708172993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1545 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Nelli Grigoryan]

[Text] Yaroslavl August 27 TASS—A meeting of heads of representative and executive power bodies from seven central Russian areas, namely the Moscow, Tver, Tula, Vladimir, Vologda, Kostroma and Yaroslavl regions, aimed to elaborate a single stand on a number of topical political and economic problems here today.

The sides unanimously confirmed the need to set up a Federation Council and described it as a consultative body to influence primarily the economic policy.

"Experience the regions have gained in reforms has not been claimed by the center," head of the Yaroslavl regional administration and one of the meeting initiators Anatoliy Lisitsyn told ITAR-TASS.

"Thus, we intend not only to support the idea of the Federation Council, but also suggest specific issues for its discussion. These are regulated relations between federal and local budgets, bank payments and clearer agrarian policy," he noted.

Procurator's Office Begins Corruption Investigation

LD2708174093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1611 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Ivanova]

[Text] Moscow August 27 TASS—A four-member team from the Moscow procurator's office investigation department has started the inspection of materials submitted by the Inter-Department Commission Against

Crime and Corruption, Moscow Procurator Gennadiy Ponomaryov told ITAR-TASS here today.

The materials are being systematized and the majority of them is being translated from English and German.

"Neither document will be taken on trust," said Ponomaryov. "Authenticity and lawfulness of obtainment of every document will be thoroughly examined." An official inquiry has been sent to the Commission Against Crime and Corruption. "When beginning the inspection, we must be sure there are no other documents or information on the inspected organizations and persons left," he said.

The procurator is convinced skills of the team correspond to its task. There is a possibility to involve in the inspection graphologists and other experienced experts. However, the procurator doubts whether the Moscow procurator's office will have enough powers for the inspection.

In his words, "it is a paradoxical juridical situation, which has no historical precedents".

Ponomaryov assumes direct or indirect influence on the inspection on the part of the Russian procurator general's office, the inter-department commission, other structures and even mass media, but he does not fear this influence.

The procurator said it is in everyone's interest to enable the Moscow procurator's office to work in the name of truth, not giving reasons for questioning the inspection results.

Rutskoy Questioned

LD3008152393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1430 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tamara Zamyatina]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—Vice President Aleksandr Rutskoy gave evidence to the Moscow procuracy investigators for nearly four hours today in connection with the documents submitted to the Interdepartmental Committee on Fighting Crime and Corruption. The ITAR-TASS correspondent learned this from Vladimir Goncharov, senior assistant to the Moscow procurator.

Information on the enquiry is not being made public until the documents have been finally verified. According to the conclusions of the interdepartmental committee, Aleksandr Rutskoy "has connections with a Swiss bank account to which $3.5 million has been illegally transferred."

Rutskoy News Conference on Charges

PM3008153793 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 24 Aug 93 Second Edition p 1

[Aleksandra Lugovskaya report: "Rutskoy Completely Dismisses all Charges and Intends To Bring an Action against the Press, IZVESTIYA, in Particular"]

[Excerpts] Aleksandr Rutskoy held a press conference in the Kremlin on 23 August. As the vice president stated in his opening remarks, this was in response to the story about the three mafia "godfathers"—him, Stepankov, and Khasbulatov—which the interdepartmental anti-corruption commission has been telling the Russian people. [passage omitted]

In response to an IZVESTIYA question as to whether criminal proceedings might be instituted against him personally, Rutskoy completely ruled out such an eventuality: "I have never broken any laws." At the same time he did note the "colossal explosion in crime and all-pervasive corruption" in the executive branch, which wields the levers of redistribution of property, and expressed his certainty that the time will come when those who have brought a country with huge potential to this impoverished state will have to answer to the law. And he described a Russia-wide political strike as an increasingly realistic form of protest.

The vice president reported that he has enjoyed good relations with Khasbulatov "since the very outset," that he regards General Prosecutor Stepankov as a decent man, and he dwelled in detail on the causes of his own disagreements with the president. The final break came, according to him, "after tough talking" in December 1992, and the basis of that break was the antipeople policy pursued by a "government of theoreticians," a policy devoid of goals, tasks, or stages for the implementation of reforms or a mechanism for accountability: "The president's response to this was to strip me of all powers."

Regarding his own political views, Rutskoy said that he "is not a Mickey Mouse politician" and that he is drawing up a Russia-wide program to overcome the crisis, a program whose time "will come without fail." He intends to present it "to the public and the new government" in January-February 1994.

The mini-sensation of the press conference was Rutskoy's statement that on 24 July, even before Barannikov's removal, Makarov held a confidential conversation with Russian Ministry of Security staffers during which he showed interest in compromising material on V. Stepankov, A. Rutskoy, V. Barannikov, and V. Yerin and reported that the "security minister's fate was predetermined." Asked by journalists to name the Russian Security Ministry officer, the vice president answered that he has no intention of revealing his source, but to back up the fact this was no rumor stated: "I've got constitutional credentials, and that's the difference between me and you, and me and Makarov."

Government Leaders' Activities, Trips Viewed

PM3008112993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 25 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] **Meetings, Trips, Conferences**

[passage omitted] First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets chaired a conference of the Commission for Current Questions. Vice Premiers Boris Fedorov and Yuriy Yarov took part in the same conference. On the same day Yuriy Yarov met with A. Ishimov, representative of Chelyabinsk Oblast Administration and Soviet of People's Deputies, and chaired a conference devoted to discussing the progress that has been made in implementing the Russian Federation Council of Ministers decree "On Bread Prices."

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin is in South Korea.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays has planned a meeting in the evening with Mr. Nelson, a professor from the University of Virginia.

Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray chaired a conference with leaders of regional and interregional associations.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha is continuing his trip to Smolensk Oblast. [passage omitted]

Kuban

Only invite the necessary number of indispensable workers to the Kuban—this is the aim of the decree signed by Krasnoyarsk Kray Administration head Nikolay Yegorov on licensing the recruitment of foreign workers. This temporary statute is intended to be valid pending the ratification by the country's Supreme Soviet of an appropriate legislative act; it will apply to Russians and foreigners sending their workers to enterprises or construction sites in the Kuban as well as joint ventures registered in the kray. [passage omitted]

Plans

Russian Government First Vice Premier V. Shumeyko has announced that he discussed with President Yeltsin the issue of transferring the financing of a fourth "Ostankino" channel to the banks. The president supported this plan.

It is planned that the main investor will be the "Most" financial group together with a number of Moscow's commercial banks.

Further on Meetings

PM3008105193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpts] **Meetings, Visits, Trips**

[passage omitted]

After the Council of Ministers sitting, First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets received leaders of ministries and departments. The question of creating the PROMYSHLENNYY VESTNIK [Industrial Herald] periodical was discussed in particular.

After the Council of Ministers sitting, Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha departed for St. Petersburg on an official trip.

After the Council of Ministers, Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray met with German ambassador Mr. Blech.

After the Council of Ministers, Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov received B. Kutychkin, deputy general director of the Russian "Zarubezhneft" foreign economic association.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov took part in the Council of Ministers sitting.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin is on an official trip. In the capital of Belarus this time. [passage omitted]

Ahead of Events

Russian Defense Minister Pavel Grachev is departing on a visit to the United States 8 September, INTERFAX was informed by the Russian military department. It is planned that the visit will last three days, during which P. Grachev intends to meet with the country's military and political leadership. The minister is scheduled to return to Moscow 11 September.

[passage omitted]

Cabinet Leaders' Activities Reported

PM3008113593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Aug 93 p 2

[Unattributed feature: "Executive Branch Monitoring"]

[Excerpt] **Meetings Trips, Conferences**

Head of Government Viktor Chernomyrdin met with U.S. Ambassador T.R. Pickering in the morning. They discussed questions associated with the upcoming visit of the chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government which begins 29 August. Chernomyrdin's working day was mainly devoted to preparations for this trip.

First Vice Premier Oleg Lobov chaired a conference on questions concerning the Russian Academy of Architecture and Construction Sciences.

First Vice Premier Oleg Soskovets chaired a conference in the morning on the results of a working tour of the Far East. In the second half of the day there was another conference on his schedule—on questions of supplying

railroad transport with passenger railcars. In particular, the problem of developing Tver Railcar Construction Plant was considered.

First Vice Premier Vladimir Shumeyko, besides dealing with current questions, prepared himself for an official trip to St. Petersburg. This working trip is connected with preparations for holding the Goodwill Games, which will take place in the city on the Neva next year. Shumeyko met with Mayor of St. Petersburg Anatoliy Sobchak in order to discuss with the city authorities the plan of events within the framework of preparations for the games. He will also consider a number of economic questions with the oblast leadership.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Zaveryukha is on an official trip to St. Petersburg.

Vice Premier Boris Fedorov participated in a session of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet chambers. The republic budget was discussed.

Vice Premier Aleksandr Shokhin had a discussion with journalists. The meeting, held at the government press center, was devoted to relations between Russia and the IMF. Shokhin also talked about the results of the Minsk meeting, at which the problem of the economic union of CIS countries was discussed, and about the results of the trip to the Republic of Korea.

In the second half of the day Shokhin met with Ukrainian First Vice Premier Valeriy Shmarov. Questions of economic cooperation between the two countries were discussed.

Vice Premier Yuriy Yarov chaired a conference in the morning at which proposals on structural and functional changes in the system of nature conservancy administration organs were considered. In the second half of the day he participated in a conference of the working group on transporting produce and goods to Far North rayons. Vice Premier Sergey Shakhray participated in a conference on socioeconomic amenities for refugees in the North Caucasus.

Vice Premier Anatoliy Chubays held a conference with leaders of State Committee for the Management of State Property departments. The vice premier's daily schedule also included a meeting with Y. Eygner [name as transliterated], Austrian Republic charge d'affaires ad interim. [passage omitted]

Government Reprimand to Glazyev Shows 'Wisdom'

PM3008141193 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Aug 93 pp 1-2

[Yuriy Popov article: "Severe Reprimand Instead of Resignation. Minister Sergey Glazyev Obliged To Restore Order to His Department"]

[Text] The past few days have seen events played out in government spheres which have attracted the attention of both the Russian and the international public. One of these was the resignation statement by S. Glazyev, minister of foreign economic relations, rapidly followed by the Council of Ministers Presidium decision not to accept his resignation but to severely reprimand S. Glazyev on the basis of checks of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations' activity carried out by three highly qualified commissions.

One of these was the commission for the struggle against crime and corruption—although it should be stipulated straightaway that the minister was not incriminated in either—but documents from all three commissions point to serious shortcomings and failings in the work of the ministry, whose staff, along with staff at the Russian Ministry of the Economy and Ministry of Fuel and Energy, failed to carry out presidential directives and decrees from the Council of Ministers-Government on questions of foreign economic activity. In particular, they committed serious violations in implementing intergovernmental agreements on oil shipments to Bulgaria and India, as well as on implementing normative acts regulating exports of strategically important raw materials. Under intergovernmental agreements Russia should have supplied 3 million tonnes of oil to Bulgaria in 1992 and 4 million tonnes to India worth a total of $840 million. Despite the fact that the size of oil shipment transactions to foreign countries has been exaggerated, Bulgaria has received 167,400 tonnes and India 212,000 tonnes—or slightly more than 5 percent of the government target. One of the reasons for the failure to meet the commitment was the lack of proper control over the procedure for quota-setting and licensing, and the violation of that procedure by leaders themselves.

It was specifically pointed out to S. Glazyev that he too had "failed to take measures to organize proper control over inflows of foreign-currency funds into the Russian Republic Foreign Currency Reserve, and over the state of transactions with the aforesaid countries, which has led to the country continuing to be highly indebted to India... In breach of government decree No. 396 of 14 July 1992 he made the decision to auction off certificates for the export of 2 million tonnes of oil to these countries without canceling export quotas for manufacturers who had refused to supply oil for state needs. Thus, the auctioning of quotas was not backed up by the necessary oil resources," nor was another government directive—No. 1782-r of 28 September 1992 on the allocation of additional quotas for these certificates, carried out.

"State control over timely payment for certificates, the correct issuing of licenses, the efficacy of commercial deals, and the fulfillment of contractual commitments was not ensured." Thus, the "Uralinvest" Joint-Stock Company was granted certificates without payment for a sum of more than 351 million rubles [R], with a license being arranged simultaneously. According to the documentation, 518,000 tonnes of oil had been dispatched to India, whereas in fact it had received 212,000 tonnes. The rest was sold to Europe and, the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations promised, would have to be bought

from Near East countries. But the foreign currency has been deposited in European banks and is circulating among foreign intermediaries. The oil has not been bought (as of early July), and the Russian budget has not received more than $13 million.

Dozens of foreign trade associations under the jurisdiction of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations have been granted the right of special exporters of almost all strategically important raw materials—including rare and rare-earth metals—even though they may not specialize in these areas.

Attention is drawn to the situation that has hitherto reigned at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, whereby rights with regard to quota-setting and licensing are granted to inappropriate organizations or to regions without the necessary resources and materials. This naturally creates lawbreaking opportunities which are willingly exploited by unscrupulous people. Because of their lack of experience and ignorance of market conditions, associations such as "Oboroneksport," "Tekhnostroyeksport," and "Prodintorg" have failed to ensure efficient export sales of oil and metals. For instance, "Prodintorg," which was wrongly issued with quotas for oil exports to India and Bulgaria (900,000 tonnes) in July last year without having to submit a tender, has failed to deliver a single tonne.

The commissions' records also cite other cases of serious shortcomings in the work of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations. The minister immediately sent Premier V. Chernomyrdin a long explanation disputing these conclusions. Nonetheless, despite the arguments cited in it, the facts brought to light in the course of the checks were left virtually unrefuted. The Council of Ministers Presidium came to the conclusion that S. Glazyev himself was not involved in any corruption. But, as minister, he undoubtedly bears responsibility for everything that has happened at his department and in his sphere of activity. This also explains the administrative penalty levied against him.

It is based on the fact that the ministry's leadership permitted shortcomings to occur and failed to take exhaustive measures to carry out the decisions of the president and the government. It was also pointed out that the poor control over the ministry's activity created the prerequisites for corruption and lawbreaking in foreign economic activity.

It is quite clear that the minister and the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations leadership were unable to approach the commissions' conclusions self-critically or to restrain their departmental ambitions. Of course, as people say, you cannot fall in love with criticism—it is not a pretty girl—but it has to be heeded and lessons have to be drawn from it. Uncomfortable failings have to be rectified, each case noted in the commissions' records has to be closely analyzed, and the culprits have to be brought to book. Work will also be needed to fundamentally review the ministry's functions with a view to stepping up its role and responsibility in the state regulation of foreign economic activity.

The press has made a lot of judgments about S. Glazyev's letter to the prime minister, particularly while the issue is still in the public eye. Certain newspapers have laid particular stress on the minister's claim that mafia structures and influential representatives of the authorities were behind it all. The opposition press was not slow to exploit the minister's impulsiveness in an attempt to set certain members of the government against each other and to cast aspersions on others, discrediting them in the eyes of the public. But, as the more than four-hour discussion at the Council of Ministers Presidium session showed, the shortcomings that were brought to light in the work of the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and its chief were by no means slanderous.

It transpires that he had thoughtlessly encouraged the mass media and given an excuse to those of them which miss no opportunity to bait the executive or take a swipe at it. Certain newspapers out of ignorance and others deliberately have put about a story of an aircraft returning home after it was halfway to Africa. It is strange that S. Glazyev himself was silent about one very important detail—he had known beforehand that the Africa visit was to be postponed. Yet, despite this, he flew out of Moscow 20 August. His statement at the Presidium session to the effect that allegedly "the girls didn't inform me" cannot be taken seriously—all the more so as records exist showing that the ministry had received the decision and passed it on to its administrator. Moreover, the minister himself in a note to the premier stated that it was undesirable to reschedule the visit a day before departure, and requested a Presidium session after his return from the trip.

Clearly, S. Glazyev lacked restraint at this critical moment, and emotion got the better of the statesmanship which someone in his exalted position should have. This, incidentally, was immediately stated by the prime minister, who noted that no hasty conclusions should be reached about S. Glazyev's request to resign. Of course, not everyone finds it easy to endure the shocks which the young minister has come in for over the past few days. Nonetheless, people in power quite simply need to carefully weigh up every step and action they take, and to avoid any hastiness even in the most complex upheavals—all the more so at such a crucial time in the country's life. It was no accident that major Russian entrepreneurs, expressing confidence in the minister, at the same time advised him to hang on and not insist on resigning. Incidentally, neither the Ministry of the Economy nor the Ministry of Fuel and Energy, which came in for equally severe criticism, reacted in like fashion—the heads of these departments have clearly decided to carefully investigate the matter before making any decision.

The Council of Ministers Presidium has shown collective wisdom in refusing to accept S. Glazyev's resignation and demanding that he instill order at the Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations and eradicate the shortcomings noted by the commissions. It is logical to assume that the discussion at the session Wednesday was also useful for S. Glazyev himself and for all the ministers and the government as a whole, which has emerged from this clash more cohesive and battle-hardened. This will also be promoted by the Council of Ministers Presidium's instruction that S. Glazyev publicly apologize to his government colleagues for the incorrect attitude that he had shown toward them in his hasty press statement. We must assume that the capable, principled, and honest young minister has enough courage and willpower to conquer his emotions and heed this advice.

Sergey Filatov Marks 1991 Coup Anniversary

PM2608202993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 24 Aug 93 pp 1, 2

[Article by Sergey Filatov, chief of Administration of the Russian president: "Democratic Forces Must Prepare for the Forthcoming Elections"]

[Text] August 1991 was in effect yet another choice by Russians. A choice not only in favor of democracy and the policy of creating a market economy, but also in favor of the stability of this policy, of consistency in the development of reforms, and of the need to increase the reliability of the institutions of state power, efficient administration, and effective legislation.

The two years that have passed since August 1991, when the young democracy vanquished totalitarianism, are a short time. Nevertheless, it is possible—indeed essential—to assess the road we have traveled. What have we managed to do, and what have we not managed to do? Did we correctly understand and take account of the results of August 1991? How far have the hopes of Russians been justified?

Perhaps the main result of August 1991 was that the multinational Russian people tasted freedom, and not only displayed a readiness to defend it but actually did defend it. The people realized the perniciousness of totalitarianism. That is why the State Committee for the State of Emergency did not meet with the support of Russians.

There are also other results of August 1991, with which we cannot be satisfied. Above all, we failed to exploit the conditions created by the August victory for consistent and intensive reform of the economy and the political system. It is sad, but a fact, that some of our former comrades in arms who came to the defense of democracy with us two years ago are now to be found in the ranks of the unconstructive opposition—some even in the National Salvation Front.

Nevertheless, the most surprising thing is that we now live in a completely different country, and this is the result of two years of reforms. It is not a question of our state having changed its name but of the people having changed, of their new consciousness. What unites Russians today? Probably, by no means just support for the course toward the market economy. For all the importance of ensuring this, it is only a guarantee that within a certain period of time normal conditions for life will be secured for Russian citizens. Surely there is no one who does not want this? What has always united Russians, and continues to do so, is spiritual unity, historical and cultural traditions, and the unifying principle of Russia. They are united by belief in Russia's development as a safe and happy home for each and everyone who lives in it; by belief in the revival of the glorious traditions which for more than 70 years were subjected to attempts to eradicate them.

I think that real patriotism is love for Russia without shouting this love aloud, without self-glorification or self-advertisement; for a Russia that has taken many peoples under its wing but has not treated them as imperial subjects; a love for its difficult history. It is the profoundest respect for its multinational, truly great people. So that it is to no avail that a certain section of the reactionary forces claim the name of patriots. It belongs to all true Russians. It was the victory in August 1991 that gave us the opportunity to give new meaning to this word.

What have been the economic processes in the past two years? The collapse of the command economy and the inability of the organs of power to begin the necessary reforms in time had by the fall of 1991 brought Russia to the brink of catastrophe. Financial ruin, an inoperative market, and the undermining of the prestige of the authorities manifested themselves in the breakdown of grain procurements and the severest crisis in food supply to the cities. The country's hard currency reserves were fully exhausted and its creditworthiness undermined.

The reforms begun in 1992 have enabled us to blunt the crisis. The paralysis of city food supplies has been overcome. The threats of famine and the collapse of the system of vital services have been removed from the agenda. The hours of waiting in line, the ration cards, and the empty shelves are a thing of the past. A process of stabilization has been registered in the country's hard currency and foreign economic position. The market has begun to work and has enabled food imports to be sharply reduced. State hard currency reserves, which by the beginning of 1992 had dwindled almost to nothing, by the middle of 1993 exceeded $5 billion. Gold reserves are increasing. After several years of pointless dispute over words, privatization is going full steam ahead. The rapid growth of the private sector, which already embraces not just trade and finances, but also production, has become a reality of economic life.

The economy is adapting to a new, drastically reduced, level of militarization. Qualitative resources formerly harnessed for the production of arms are being redistributed for the production of civilian output and are

stimulating the competitiveness of Russian industry on the world market. The fall in the volume of output which began in 1989 and accelerated for three years is being successfully slowed.

In 1992-1993 the economic process is developing with difficulty and equivocally, but all the same, the foundations have been successfully laid for the stabilization of the economy and the continuation of the reforms. Russia's movement toward the market economy, toward economic freedom and the democratization of property relations, has become virtually irreversible.

Russia has managed to extricate itself from the clutches of the deficit economy, which is a breeding ground for corruption, although the solution of this difficult problem requires particular efforts, which are already being made. The ruble is becoming a truly working monetary unit.

In the course of privatization millions of working people are for the first time becoming owners of the means of production. Enterprise is being revived.

It would be a dangerous delusion to overestimate the established trend. The result of the absence of reliable political support for the reform policy and of the inconsistency and vacillation in pursuing it is persistently high inflation. While affording wide scope for enrichment through short-term financial and trading operations, it makes long-term capital investment in the development of production unprofitable, dooming the Russian economy to stagnation. The sharp growth in the incomes gap and the significant fall in the standing of living of large social groups is closely linked to this.

The "bottleneck" of reform has also been revealed—the sphere of legislation. Russian Federation deputies have failed to create a precise mechanism for the legislative support of reforms. The multitude of adopted laws and the endless amendments to the existing Constitution have not compensated for the delay in adopting such key acts as civil and trade codes, and laws on joint-stock companies, securities, guarantees of the inviolability of private property, and many others. A whole series of laws bears the manifest imprint of the priority of the political struggle. It is imperative to eliminate this "bottleneck" in quick order, or else stabilization of the economy will not be guaranteed.

The support given by Russia's citizens for the policy of reforms at the referendum of 25 April was a display of common sense by a society which was able to appreciate the need for changes and the inevitable price that had to be paid to break the deadlock.

In order to extricate our economy from crisis as swiftly as possible, tough measures are needed to decisively crush inflation. Only such measures will ensure the start of the life-giving phase of the investment of funds in the economy, since in the long term the only reliable anticrisis measure is to support the economy with investments. Here the solutions of various problems coalesce: providing guarantees of the rights of private property and the convertibility of the ruble, raising the norm of the voluntary savings of the population, and creating structures which attract investments and channel them into the national economy. It is only economic growth on the basis of effective investments which can become a healthy, reliable basis for resolving the severe social and cultural problems which have built up. But measures of financial stabilization require social consensus and political stability. We have neither. You know who is opposing this and how.

Our movement forward along the road of reforms and the stabilization connected with them is in many ways complicated by the counteraction being exerted by the antireformist forces. Dyarchy, dangerous for any state, is many times more difficult in a transitional period, and without the resolution of political questions, we will not be able to ensure the further development of the reforms.

The opposition of the reforms' opponents is growing all the time. Already a union has been forged between the greater part of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet Presidium and the implacable opposition. The leadership of the Supreme Soviet has in effect become the center of opposition to the Russian Federation president and to the policy of reforms which was to all intents and purposes begun in 1990 and supported and continued in 1991 and 1993. It cannot be denied that important legislative activity has been carried out within the walls of the "White House" [Russian parliament], especially before the end of last year, but that is the result of the work of constructively minded deputies, and they are, alas, in the minority in the Supreme Soviet now. For the rest, political games have become more important. Possessing a certain power and considerable financial resources, and drawing on the support of many soviets in the Russian regions, the leadership of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is to all intents and purposes completing its transformation into the headquarters of the united opposition to the Russian Federation president and the democratic transformations being carried out by him and his supporters.

Nowadays you often hear: The federal authorities are engaged in confrontation and a power struggle; they have no time for the economy or the Russian people. How can you tackle economic reform if you are constantly being impeded: The president's edicts are rescinded, or their fulfillment is sabotaged or boycotted. This is a deliberate and coordinated practice.

The opposition has set itself tasks for the immediate future for neutralizing the results of the 25 April referendum: to seize the initiative; to introduce a split in the Russian Federation Government and put pressure on consistent reformers within the government, and to change public opinion against the Russian Federation president and the democratic forces. The final goal is the full seizure of power and the winding down of the reforms now being carried out. Moreover, this is being done on the basis that the existing Constitution formally

gives power to the opponents of reforms, including the power to make use of the General Prosecutor's Office for political purposes in the guise of combating corruption.

The present Russian Constitution does not ensure the normal development of reforms either. It was not written for that purpose. It has not been redeemed by the numerous amendments made to it in recent years. Many articles contradict one another, which is skillfully exploited by the opposition, and which in effect preserves first and foremost the contradiction between the separation of powers that has now been introduced and the absolute power of the soviets which has been preserved. On the other hand, there has long been a pressing need for the reconstitution of the supreme organs of administration. It has long been clear that the Congress of People's Deputies has outlived its time, and that a normal parliament is necessary.

It is clear that the resolution of these problems is possible only through the adoption of a new Russian Federation Constitution. In the spring of this year, drawing on the support given by citizens at the referendum of 25 April 1993, the Russian president proposed the draft of a Russian Federation Constitution.

Furthermore, the Russian Federation president took an important step with a view to seeking consensus in the question of adopting a new Russian Federation Constitution—the Constitutional Conference was convened. It represents the most varied levels of power—from the federal authorities and the federation components to local self-government—and the most varied political forces, public associations, religious denominations, and entrepreneurial structures. The result of the work—at the basis of which lay the president's draft, the draft of the congress's Constitutional Commission, and also numerous proposals and amendments from Russian citizens—was a composite draft absorbing the best of everything. According to the assessments of specialists, if it is adopted, the new Constitution will guarantee political stability in society and ensure the stable work of the system of democratic power, whereby each of its branches concerns itself with its own business, and the president ensures the coordinated work and interaction of the state organs. The draft constitution defines the actual foundations of the market, of vigorous economic activity, initiative, and free enterprise, throughout the whole territory of the federation.

An important step by the Russian president was to hand over the draft Russian Federation constitution prepared by the Constitutional Conference to be examined by the federation components. At the same time the president by no means expects that the draft will be approved mechanically. There are improvements to be made to it. For example, as concerns the federation components, local self-government, and jurisprudence. However, instead of constructive work on the Constitutional Conference's draft, it is already obvious that in a whole series of regions it is the target of an organized boycott on the part of the leadership, especially soviet leaders. The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet does not wish to notice the existence of the composite draft constitution, and is stubbornly preparing its own draft variant.

The Russian Federation Supreme Soviet is behaving as if there had been no referendum in April of this year, as if Russia's citizens had not expressed themselves in support of the policy of reforms. The people's elected representatives are entirely disregarding the will of the people. Moreover, the leadership of the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet with its demarches is constantly exacerbating the political situation, intensifying the confrontation and transferring it to society, and is in effect inciting the most extremist part of the implacable opposition to manifestations of dissent, pushing Russia toward that danger line beyond which civil war may lie.

I want especially to stress that, in the confrontation of the organs of power, the executive, and first and foremost the Russian Federation president, is defending the will of Russia's citizens who in the referendum of 25 April 1993 expressed themselves in support of the very policy of forming a market economy, and the results of a nationwide ballot certainly do not become obsolete. The president, who received a vote of confidence from the citizens of Russia, is the sole legitimate representative of the supreme organ of power, and he is obligated to be the guarantor of the stability and security of the state.

In conditions of the growing political crisis, and with the constitutional process patently stalled, in the event of the constitution not being adopted the only alternative is to hold early elections to the supreme organ of legislative power. The initiative of the Russian president, who has expressed himself in favor of holding early elections in the coming fall, has met with the total support of the democratic forces, and indeed, of a sizable section of society. Moreover, the initiative coincided with these forces' own proposals. Let me stress that this concerns elections for the legislative power, because the president's powers, as I have already stressed, have been confirmed three times since 1991.

Of course, the elections should be held for a new organ of legislative power. This organ should become a genuine Russian Federation parliament. In order to bring this about in conditions where the adoption of the new Constitution is blocked, two documents need to appear. An interim statute on the Russian Federation Parliament, defining the structure and powers of the organ in question, and an interim statute on elections to the Russian Federation Parliament, taking account of the real multiparty system that has emerged in the past few years. Drafts of these two documents could be prepared by the Constitutional Conference, which would allow different viewpoints to be taken into account and present the necessary status.

Of course, it would be preferable for both these documents to be adopted by the Russian Federation Supreme Soviet in the form of laws. It is a step which citizens of the Russian Federation would appreciate at its true

worth, but for this, the goodwill of the Supreme Soviet leadership is necessary. The very near future will show whether this goodwill will be displayed.

Russia needs early elections. Only they can now ensure that the political crisis is overcome. The democratic forces must prepare for the forthcoming elections. The creation of a broad preelection bloc of democratic forces is essential, and we count on your support in this.

Victory at the elections for the democratic forces will not be easy. The implacable opposition has labored mightily to this effect, accusing the democrats of all existing problems. Everything negative—corruption, the negligence of functionaries, official abuses—are ascribed to and linked with democracy. Indeed, the actions of some of the new people who have come to power have often amouted to no more than words—it transpired that there were not enough among them who were prepared to really work in the structures of state administration. Hence the first task of the preelection phase is to search for and prepare those who will work as legislators in the future Russian parliament. Task number two is to begin selection of those who, after the elections, will go into the structures of state administration at all levels and ensure the formation of local self-government. In many ways the future sucess of the reforms will depend on this.

It is impossible not to note one further important initiative on the part of the Russian president—steps aimed at creating a Council of the Federation. This organ is the prototype of the upper chamber of a future parliament. It is the result of taking into account Russia's federal structure and the pledge of forward movement. For only by drawing on the support of the regions can fundamental transformations be continued today.

Today I want to make special mention of the men in whose debt we all of us are—both those present in this hall, and those outside. I am speaking of the young men—Dmitriy Komar, Ilya Krichevskiy, and Vladimir Usov—who, at the cost of their own lives, ensured the victory of democracy in Russia. I am not deviating one iota from the truth if I say that these young guys acquired immortality, in that they became a mute reproach to the current division of former allies, a reminder to us all that far from everthing has been done which should have been done in the intervening two years; they have become—I do not fear lofty words in these solemn hours—our smarting conscience. Let the blood shed by these heroes be the last blood sacrificed by Russians at the altar of the victory of democracy. Let the death of these young people sober up adventurists of every hue who are hell-bent on plunging Russia into the gulf of a new civil war, and drum from them forever the desire to make a career for themselves at the cost of the lives of others. Let their heroic feat be a lesson for all Russians, the most important, the one and only, lesson of sacrifice; and the memory of them a tribute of the profoundest respect for the dignity, rights, and freedoms of every Human Being.

I offer my humble respects to all the champions of Russia's freedom, to all who defended democracy in those days.

It has been well known since biblical times that there is a time to cast away stones and a time to gather stones together, a time to break down and a time to build up. In our "daily round" we should not be distracted from the process of creation, for now is the Time of Creation, the Time of the Rebirth of Russia.

In resisting the onslaught of those who thirst and strive for universal destruction, we should remember that now is the Time of the considered, creative approach to the business in hand, well-weighed in all its details.

In freeing ourselves from those who are only concerned with the debilitating, blinding, and embittering struggle for power, we should be worthy of the Time of the highest responsibility for the power granted by the people.

In combating the fueling of hatred for one another, calls for violence, and threats of the incitement of civil war we should recall that the Time has long since come for constructive dialogue and cooperation among all the forces of society, which no one will dare to prevent, forces conscious of their responsibility before Russia, in the name of the prosperity of the Russian people, in the name of preserving Russia's past greatness, in the name of magnifying this greatness in the Russia of today, in the name of the Russia of the future. These are the lessons which August 1991 teaches us. To this we should be true.

Communist Leader Condemns Marking of Coup Anniversary

LD2808150493 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1300 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] At a news conference in Moscow, Gennadiy Zyuganov, chairman of the Russian Communist Party Central Committee, has set out the party's position with regard to the celebrations in August marking the anniversary of the victory in the coup attempt [of 1991].

[Begin Zyuganov recording] We have stated and are stating that celebrations by a state of days which led to its disintegration and national tragedy cannot be justified from any political or moral point of view. As a result of the country's disintegration, small ethnic wars have already claimed 150,000 lives; 500,000 have been injured and there are 2 million refugees.

The celebration of a situation in which the main ethnic entity of Russians and the Russian people has been torn apart and almost 30 million people live in other ethnic and territorial entities is unacceptable, from both the moral and ethical points of view, as far as the citizens of our own fatherland are concerned.

The celebration of a situation in which half the blast furnaces are idle—32 out of 60 are idle—is altogether blasphemous, because even when the fascists were

besieging Moscow, fewer blast furnaces had to stop work than is at present the case. The celebrations are taking place in conditions of mass pauperization of the people and must be seen as a provocation. [end recording]

A remarkable statement indeed. When the Constitutional Court was hearing the case concerned with banning the CPSU, communists angrily rejected the party's complicity in the State Committee for the State of Emergency affair. Well, everything has now changed, the situation has changed and the people's victory over the putschists is described by the leader of the Communist Party of the Russian Federation as a national disaster.

Government Introduces Licensing for Air Transport Services

LD3008203393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1358 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Pavel Gordeyev]

[Text] Moscow, 30 Aug—A resolution by the Russian Federation Government on compulsory licensing of all air transport activities is aimed at bringing some order to Russian airspace. The resolution states that passenger transport, air mail services, as well as air services for enterprises and the population, must all be licensed. Only work carried out on the basis of special legislative acts is exempt from licensing.

"The adoption of such a resolution is long overdue," says Mikhail Kozlov, head of the Regulating and Licensing Department of the Russian Federation Transport Ministry Transport Services. "I think that at present there is total anarchy in the CIS airspace. Inadequate equipment is used, many pilots are not sufficiently qualified, and airport activities connected with servicing aircraft are of a very low standard. All of this leads to tragedies. Three aircraft crashed in the last three weeks alone."

Now, with the adoption of the resolution, all of this will come to an end. In September all aviation enterprises of the countries will have to pass through a system of licensing that corresponds to international standards. It must be pointed out, that in accordance with an order of the Russian Federation Government, this process will be strictly controlled by the Transport Inspectorate.

Media Issues

President Wants Media 'Under His Control'

MK2808114093 Moscow KOMMERSANT-DAILY in Russian 28 Aug 93 p 5

[Yevgeniy Yanayev report in "Supreme Soviet Rejects Amendments to Mass Media Law" column: "Russian TV Can Become Independent"]

[Excerpts] Yesterday, after it became known that Boris Yeltsin had appointed his official representative to the Supreme Soviet to discuss amendments and additions to the Law on Mass Media, the deputies had to postpone consideration of this question for at least a week. Signs are that the president hopes to gain time and, according to some reports, by organizing corporatization of the state TV and radio company, to place it under the control of Mikhail Poltoranin's new organization.

As is known, Mikhail Fedotov, who earlier presented the president's amendments to parliament, has resigned, while his first deputy David Tsabriya addressed the deputies, advising them that he was not told about the need to present this law in parliament on the president's behalf until the previous day, and that so far he had no official document certifying his powers.

The main stumbling block between the Supreme Soviet and the president in considering the amendments to the media law was the deputies' decision to form a federal council to ensure freedom of expression on state television and to provide it with fairly wide powers. Under its statute, the council will be concerned with licensing programs according to age categories; "in the interests of TV viewers and radio listeners," it exercises oversight of broadcasting schedules, allots advertising time, and appoints top TV executives.

Under the statute, the federal council has a membership of 20 people: two representatives from the president, the Supreme Soviet presidium, and the Journalists' Union each, and one representative from each of the 14 parliamentary factions. Three democratic factions—Democratic Russia, the Radical Democrats, and Accord for Progress—have refused to send their representatives, and the president's representatives have not been appointed. According to a federal council member, centrist Vladimir Zharikhin (the Free Russia faction), the decision to boycott the council's activity is ill advised since it is now dominated by the opposition. [passage omitted]

It is still unclear whether the federal council can begin its work. It seems that after the deputies have refused to take the president's amendments into account, Boris Yeltsin will do everything to preserve the mass media under his control. According to Vladimir Zharikhin, in the near term the Russian TV and Radio Company could be reorganized as a joint-stock company whereupon it will lose the status of a state establishment and will apparently be merged with Mikhail Poltoranin's information corporation currently being organized.

Broadcasting Chief on Dispute With Parliament

PM3008131993 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 28 Aug 93 p 6

[Interview with Anatoliy Lysenko, director of the All-Russia State Television and Radio Company, by correspondent N. Vaynonen; place and date not given: "Anatoliy Lysenko: We Expect Nothing Good from Parliament"]

[Text] [Vaynonen] Anatoliy Grigoryevich, if parliament does manage to subordinate Russian broadcasting to it, what will that mean for viewers?

[Lysenko] Nothing good. We have 2 hours 40 minutes between the two evening broadcasts of Vesti. During that time we run serials, feature films, programs like K-2, Sergey Solovyev's SAS, and music programs; that is, everything that enjoys special favor among viewers. Here you also have to include a very narrow range of sociopolitical broadcasts which have achieved high ratings—Without Retouching, Moment of Truth, and The Political Olympus. We imagine that parliament is going to use its might to force us to hand over one hour of that time—from 2020 to 2120—to it. You cannot fit a feature film into the remaining 90 minutes; most films, especially old ones, run for 100 minutes. We could put in another episode of a serial, but the problem is that we buy serials with the advertising already included, and none of the advertisers is going to agree to broadcast at that time as a considerable section of viewers will be watching Novosti on Channel One. What will happen then? One sociopolitical program the whole evening! Viewers will not forgive us for that. Deputies complain: Poor us, no one watches our Parliamentary Hour! But 1845—the current slot for the parliamentary broadcast—is an excellent time! The Americans have carried out polling in Moscow and St. Petersburg which shows that at 1845 the actual television audience is 42-48 percent of the potential audience. That is a very high figure. Moreover, the lower figure relates to the capital, where people spend a lot of time traveling home from work. It is clear that there is an even larger number of people in smaller cities and other time zones further east watching at 1845 Moscow time. During the day TV is watched by 5-6 percent, but at 2100 and 2200 by 60 percent. That is a bit bigger than 48 percent, but the difference is not so great that you can count on Parliamentary Hour gaining viewers merely by virtue of being switched to 2020 hours. If a program is good, it is watched no matter what time it goes out. Deputies are unable to grasp this, but it is the job of the members of the Parliamentary Committee for the Mass Media to know such things.

[Vaynonen] Is the main thing for them, then, to force an adversary off the air? If I have understood you correctly, as far as influencing viewers is concerned, a program's rating is more important than the time it goes out, while Parliamentary Hour's rating is lower than all other programs.

[Lysenko] Why is the largest audience from 2100 to 2200 hours? Because we are all used to movies, arts programs, or really interesting political programs going out at that time. What is important is not the time but what is traditionally broadcast at that time. If Parliamentary Hour gains the popularity of, say, Listyev's Topic program, viewers will rush home so as not to miss it, but when angry parliamentary "talking heads" appear on the screen each day at prime time, that time will very quickly cease to be prime.

[Vaynonen] So it is just a question of the quality of the programs? Or do viewers refuse to accept the politicization of broadcasting?

[Lysenko] I consider that television commits a cardinal sin when it introduces tension into society. We are now drawing up a new programming schedule. We want, Vesti aside, to rid the evening of politics to the maximum extent. There is a time to every purpose! People want to relax in the evening. The parliamentarians' diktat is additionally dangerous because of its lack of professionalism: Instead of taking account of viewers' interests, they are bent on imposing their own. We have forbidden our journalists to comment on Parliamentary Hour and Radio-Parliament in order to prevent passions being roused. We seek to eliminate altogether any urge to comment; our task is objective information, but that is no easy task, particularly as confrontation is literally thrust upon us, and, what is more, on the same channel. If other branches of power demand their own hour, you can imagine what you will get.

[Vaynonen] Deputies describe television as the president's television. Do you experience any censorship pressure from executive power?

[Lysenko] No. Of course, attempts to impose an item or get one suspended do come from both quarters. That is only natural. No television can satisfy everyone. We talk about the independent BBC, but how Margaret Thatcher leaned on it! It is the BBC's good fortune, however, to be protected by law.

[Vaynonen] What are your chances of beating off parliament's illegitimate claims?

[Lysenko] Oh, if only we lived in a rule-of-law state I would answer, but as things are, it is difficult to say. Journalists have the right to counter in various ways. Management finds itself in a considerably more difficult spot. I am not in the business of trying to cling to my job.

[Voynonen] Right. Let us hope, then, that civilized legal norms prevail.

[Lysenko] Of course.

Journalists Urge 'Single Information Space'

LD3108101693 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0520 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladimir Khodiy]

[Text] Irkutsk, 31 Aug—A meeting of journalists from two adjoining regions of Russia, Irkutsk oblast and Krasnoyarsk Kray, ended in the village of Listvyanka, on Lake Baykal, today. It was held with the backing and involvement of the leaders of the regional administrations with the aim, as the final document states, "of creating a single information space and helping the mass media to cooperate in defending the territories' interests."

Krasnoyarsk Kray and Irkutsk Oblast cover almost one-fifth of the territory of the Russian Federation. The scheme for cooperation between the journalists provides for regularly holding radio linkups, and exchanging television programs and political, business, advertising and commercial information.

Military & Space Issues

Yeltsin To Hold Monthly Contacts With Military Formations

LD3108085193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0806 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondents]

[Text] Alabino/Moscow Region/August 31 TASS—Russian President Boris Yeltsin decided to spend one day every month in Russian military formations in order to get first-hand information on the situation in the armed forces, according to Defence Minister Pavel Grachev.

Grachev, who accompanies the president in his first such trip to the Taman Rifle Division on Tuesday [31 August], admitted that his reports and those of commanders of military districts "do not completely satisfy the president in his wish to control the situation in the army and the navy".

Also on Tuesday Yeltsin is to visit the Kantemirovskaya Tank Division and an airborne regiment in Narofominsk, 70 kilometres south-west of Moscow.

Rapid Rise in Numbers of Soldiers Without Accomodation

LD3108103093 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 0315 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Over the last two years, 600,000 servicemen have been withdrawn to Russian territory but because the rate at which they are being withdrawn is significantly higher than the rate at which the social infrastructure is being prepared, only 11 percent of the program to supply soldiers with accommodation has been completed. The country's difficult financial situation is also not having a beneficial effect on solving the accommodation problems. As a result of all of this, according to Russian Defense Ministry information, the number of servicemen who have been dismissed and who do not have accommodation has increased seven-fold.

German-Made Satellite Launched From Plesetsk

LD3108090393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 0850 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Semen Ivanov]

[Text] Moscow August 31 TASS—Russia has successfully launched Tuesday [31 August] the meteorological "Meteor-2" satellite with a German-made minisputnik onboard which will undock from it this afternoon.

The German "Temisat" craft was launched for the Italian "Telespazio" company for ecological monitoring of the Mediterranean around Italy. The minisputnik is to undock 10 hours 42 minutes after the blast off.

The "Meteor-2" satellite blasted off from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in the Russian north at 05.40 hours gmt and became the 185th craft launched by the 39-metre long "Cyclone" booster from the launching site. TASS learned from the press service of the Russian Military Aerospace Forces.

The Tuesday launch was the 24th since 1975 of the second-generation satellite and the last one in the series.

The "Meteor-2" was placed into orbit with parametres close to the calculated ones.

The launch concided with the opening of the Moscow international aerospace show.

Economic Issues

Deputy Premier Zaveryukha on State of Agriculture

LD3008221493

[Editorial Report] Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian at 1800 GMT on 30 August broadcasts the 57-minute "Without Retouching" program.

The announcer says this edition of "Without Retouching" ends a major series of live programs from the World Fair of Russian Private Farmers from St. Petersburg. He invites Aleksandr Zaveryukha, deputy prime minister responsible for agriculture, to speak about the state of agriculture before answering questions from the press.

Zaveryukha speaks of the importance of private farming and the need to encourage it. He has traveled around the country and he can see the sense of ownership that farmers now feel. There is a trend of stabilization in agriculture. In milk yields we now exceed last year's level, we have now reached last year's level for procurement of milk, for production and sale of eggs we now exceed last year's level. The meat situation has stabilized.

"The most important thing is that a good grain crop has ripened in our country this year. In some areas, as we have said, it is a record harvest, and half of the harvest has already been gathered in. We can obtain a gross harvest this year of some 115-120 million tonnes. Having procured some 35-40 million tonnes for the federal and regional stocks, we can certainly with such a balance go without importing food grain for next year.

"This trend is already in place. This year, literally yesterday, we decided to reduce purchases from 16 million to 12 million tonnes—there is in principle no

room for further reduction—it is basically forage maize, oil seed meal. Contracts were concluded, the one that I recently concluded for the forage maize and oil seed meal in the United States, coming under humanitarian aid. That contract will be implemented. Apart from that, we will take no other grain this year."

Zaveryukha goes on to say that the government has decided to reduce imports so as to encourage our own producers. Next year we will be able to go without imports of many food items. He then answers questions from journalists.

Yeltsin Decree on Monitoring Trade, Services

LD3008165293 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 1530 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Russian Federation President Boris Yeltsin has signed a decree on the organization of operational-statistical and information-analytical monitoring of the state of trade and the market of commodities and services. As noted in the report of the president's press service, this has been done with the aim of intensifying the influence of state administration bodies on the functioning of trade and the services sphere.

Socioeconomic Stabilization Decree Published

PM3108095593 Moscow ROSSIYSKIYE VESTI in Russian 24 Aug 93 p 3

["Decree of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government on the Socioeconomic Situation of the Russian Federation and Measures Aimed at Stabilizing It," signed by V. Chernomyrdin, chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, and dated Moscow, 13 August 1993, No. 791]

[Text] The Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government notes that the development of the country's economy is to an increasing extent proceeding under the influence of the transformations aimed at ensuring the transition to the market.

The stabilization measures taken in the first six months of 1993 have enabled the severe slump in production and the deterioration of the socioeconomic situation recorded at the end of last year in Russia to be checked. However, additional measures are required in order to ensure firm stabilization in the production and socioeconomic spheres.

With the aim of overcoming the crisis phenomena in the economy and the social sphere, and taking account of the discussion of the government report "The Situation of the Russian Economy and Prospects for Its Development," the Council of Ministers-Government decrees:

1. To adopt by and large the draft "Working Program of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government for 1993-1995: The Development of Reforms and Stabilization of the Russian Economy" (hereafter called the Working Program).

To recommend that organs of executive power of the republics within the Russian Federation, of krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations, and of the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, be guided in drawing up regional socioeconomic development plans by the basic provisions of the report and the Working Program.

2. Deputy chairmen of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, with the participation of ministries and departments and components of the Russian Federation, are to draw up proposals for a mechanism to implement the first phase of the Working Program and submit them to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government.

O.I. Lobov, first deputy chairman of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, and B.G. Fedorov and A.B. Chubays, deputy chairmen of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, are to amalgamate materials received and to submit appropriate proposals for examination by the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government Presidium by 15 October 1993.

3. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, in conjunction with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, are to submit to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government proposals for urgent measures aimed at financial stabilization, including the normalization of the money supply, the settlement of mutual accounts by enterprises, and the improvement of the work of banks.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances in conjunction with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation Federal Service for Currency and Export Control, the Russian Federation State Tax Service, and the Russian Federation Tax Police Department are to ensure the unconditional fulfillment of measures aimed at combating the dollarization of the economy and bolstering the Russian ruble.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances is to prepare proposals for issuing in 1993 medium-term state debentures to be floated among the population and enterprises.

4. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, in conjunction with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, is to continue the tight monetary and credit policy, limiting the growth of credits issued from the Central Bank of the Russian Federation's centralized resources in the third and fourth quarters of 1993 to within 30 percent, and ensuring that interest rates on these credits approximate to a realistic [polozhitelnyy] level.

5. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances is to intensify monitoring of the effectiveness of state expenditure, ensuring that resources are targeted toward the

implementation of federal programs in priority sectors determined by the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government.

6. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, and the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, are to submit to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government proposals for periodically reassessing the value of capital assets and revising depreciation norms in the vital sectors in an upward direction.

7. The Russian Federation Committee for Prices Policy, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, with the participation of the interested ministries and departments, are to submit for examination by the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government Presidium within two weeks a concept for state policy in the sphere of prices.

8. The Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property and the organs of executive power of the republics within the Russian Federation, the krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg are to proceed in their activity on the basis of the need:

to carry out privatization with maximum dispatch and to increase the amount of property privatized against checks by extending the scale on which major enterprises are floated and by launching check auctions and developing a system of financial institutions helping citizens to invest their checks;

to comply with the special features of the privatization of individual sectors established by edicts of the Russian Federation president and decrees of the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government, and to elaborate special approaches to the privatization of enterprises in the scientific and technical sphere and the defense complex, and also health, education, cultural, and sports facilities, ensuring that their specialist functions are maintained;

to create a normative-legal basis for the effective functioning of privatized enterprises, including establishing priority conditions for granting them credits;

and to elaborate a mechanism to terminate the activity of state enterprises which work inefficiently.

The Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property is to submit to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government within one week proposals for the creation of highly efficient competitive financial and industrial groups in order to boost scientific and technical progress and increase exports of the output of Russian enterprises.

9. The Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, in conjunction what interested ministries and departments, is to elaborate and submit to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government proposals:

on the procedure for the management of federal property;

on granting the regions the right to make decisions on the privatization of federally owned facilities.

10. The Russian Federation Committee for the Defense Sectors of Industry, the Russian Federation Ministry for Atomic Energy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Defense, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry for Scientific and Technological Policy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations are to submit to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government proposals on measures for state support for high-techology, highly efficient production processes and technologies which determine modern standards in the output produced by defense complex enterprises, including high-precision instruments, optical and electrical equipment, the production of ultra-pure materials, and precision equipment.

11. The Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture and other interested ministries and departments and the organs of executive power of the republics within the Russian Federation and of krays, oblasts, autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, proceeding on the basis of the prevailing situation in the national economy, are to focus special attention on the concentration of material-technical, financial, and labor resources for the organized gathering of the 1993 harvest and the transportation, storage, and processing of agricultural produce and its stockpiling in federal and regional stocks.

12. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation State Committee for the Management of State Property, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture, in conjunction with the "Roskhleboprodukt" Joint-Stock Society, are to submit to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government by 15 September 1993 proposals on improving the purchasing and processing of grain and cereal products and the storage thereof, bearing in mind the extension of the functions and rights of local procurement organizations and enterprises engaged in the delivery and sale of grain and products processed from grain.

At the same time the "Roskhleboprodukt" Joint-Stock Society is to continue to carry out state policy in questions of the procurement and processing of grain and cereal products and the storage thereof, and to form and use the federal grain and cereal products stock.

13. Russian Federation ministries and departments are to strengthen contacts with regional economic collaboration associations and exploit the possibilities of the latter

to form efficient forms of management organization, including intersector corporations, companies, and consortia.

14. In preparing drafts of legislative and other normative acts, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, and other ministries and departments are where necessary to provide for regional differentiation in measures proposed for the state regulation of economic and social processes, taking into account the basic provisions of the Federation Treaty. They are to concentrate their efforts on creating an economic mechanism for conducting federal relations which ensures the formation of a new economic area based on market relations and on the further decentralization of the processes of the administration of reforms.

15. The Russian Federation Ministry of Health is to ensure the purchase of imported medicines and the raw materials and substances for the production of medicines at republic pharmaceutical industry enterprises by assigning priority to payments for crucial imports in 1993.

16. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances and the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, in conjunction with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, the Russian Federation Ministry of Health, and the Russian Federation Ministry for the Social Protection of the Population, are to submit to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government within two weeks proposals for establishing a system of regulations to augment the working capital of institutions in the pharmaceutical network, enterprises producing medicines, bacteriological preparations, and products for medical purposes, orthopedic enterprises, and also enterprises belonging to invalids' societies.

17. Executive directors of the Federal Fund for Compulsory Medical Insurance, by agreement with the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances and the Russian Federation Ministry of Health, are to establish within one week interim regulations to govern the financial collaboration of those operating [subyekty] in the system of compulsory medical insurance and the expenditure of compulsory medical insurance funds.

The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances is to ensure the adoption of decisions necessary for the operation of the system of compulsory medical insurance that are to be agreed with the executive directors of the Federal Fund for Compulsory Medical Insurance and interested ministries and departments.

18. The Russian Federation Ministry of Labor, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, and the Russian Federation Ministry for the Social Protection of the Population, in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, are to submit to the Russian Federation Central Committee-Government within a two-week period proposals for the indexation of the wages of public-sector workers, and also of subsidies and other social payments in line with the Russian Federation Law "On the Indexation of the Minimum Wage" of 14 July 1993.

19. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, in conjunction with the Russian Federation State Committee for the Socioeconomic Development of the North and the Russian Federation Ministry of Labor, and with the participation of interested ministries and departments, are to deliver to the organs of state power and administration of the northern regions within one month a procedure for reimbursing expenses incurred in ensuring the guarantees and compensation payments stipulated by the Russian Federation Law "On State Guarantees and Compensation Payments for Persons Working and Living in Regions of the Far North and Equivalent Localities."

20. Russian Federation ministries and departments and organs of executive power of the republics within the Russian Federation, krays, oblasts, and autonomous formations, and the cities of Moscow and St. Petersburg, are to adopt measures to ensure the timely organization of work connected with the preparation of enterprises in the fuel and energy complex and the housing and utilities sector for work in the fall-winter period of 1993-1994, ensuring in the process that reserves of fuel are stockpiled in the depots of fuel-supplying organizations, power stations, and municipal power facilities by 1 October 1992 [as published] at the very least at last year's level.

21. With the aim of encouraging the participation of the population in individual and cooperative housing construction, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances and the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, with the participation of banks, are to prepare and submit to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government within two months proposals for the allocation of preferential credits, and also for partial compensation for the increased estimated costs of houses built by house-building cooperatives, some of which compensation is to come from the Russian Federation republic budget.

22. The Russian Federation State Committee for Economic Cooperation with Commonwealth Member States, in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Agriculture, the Russian Federation State Committee for Industrial Policy, and other interested ministries and departments, is to elaborate by the end of 1993 measures for state assistance for the development of industrial and technical production-sharing links between industrial, agricultural, food-producing, and processing enterprises and organizations of the Russian Federation and near-neighbor countries—links ensuring the comprehensive use and intensive processing of industrial and agricultural raw materials, the rational use of fixed capital, and the reduction of materials- and energy-intensiveness of end products.

23. The Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, and the Russian Federation State Committee for Economic Cooperation With Commonwealth Member States, in conjunction with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and interested ministries and departments, are to prepare and submit to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government proposals for the Russian Federation's collaboration with near-neighbor countries in conditions of the transformation of the ruble zone and the possible introduction by individual CIS member states of their own currencies.

24. The Russian Federation State Committee for Economic Cooperation With Commonwealth Member States, in conjunction with the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, and other interested ministries and departments, is to expedite the elaboration of the principles, conditions, and phases of transition to a full-scale economic union of the states within the Commonwealth of Independent States.

25. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Federal Service for Currency and Export Control, and the Russian Federation State Customs Committee, in conjunction with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation and interested ministries and departments, are to submit to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government proposals:

for the improvement of the system of incentives granted to enterprises and organizations in the sphere of foreign economic activity, having in mind the creation of conditions aimed at reducing import subsidies and eliminating them completely in 1994, and boosting the growth of Russian exports through lowering the level of export tariffs;

for the creation of an efficient system of export and currency control.

The Russian Federation Ministry for Foreign Economic Relations is to expedite preparation of a draft Russian Federation Law "On Foreign Economic Activity" and submit it to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government.

26. The Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations are to carry out work by the end of 1993 to eliminate export quotas on all goods, excepting energy sources, in order to boost Russian exports.

27. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, and the Russian Federation State Customs Committee, in conjunction with the Central Bank of the Russian Federation, are to prepare and submit to the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government within two weeks proposals on strengthening the coordination and monitoring by organs of state administration of the international and foreign economic relations of the components of the Russian Federation, guiding themselves in this by the Russian Federation Constitution and the Federation Treaty.

28. The Russian Federation Ministry of Foreign Economic Relations, the Russian Federation Ministry of the Economy, the Russian Federation Ministry of Finances, the Russian Federation State Customs Committee, and the Russian Federation Ministry of Justice are to prepare and submit to the the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government proposals for amendments and additions to the Russian Federation Law "On Customs Tariffs" providing for state support for industrial enterprises while they carry out reconstruction and technical reequipping and create import-substitution production facilities.

[Signed] V. Chernomyrdin
Chairman of the the Russian Federation Council of Ministers-Government
[Dated] Moscow, 13 August 1991, No. 791

Regional Affairs

Kaliningrad 'Representational Office' To Open in Moscow

WS3108093693 Kaliningrad KALININGRADSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Our Embassy in Moscow"]

[Text] The visit to Kaliningrad by a delegation from the Moscow City Council has helped the oblast administration solve the problem of establishing its lobby in the capital of Russia. During negotiations, an agreement to open a Kaliningrad representational office in Moscow was concluded.

Who knows, maybe in the future this representation will evolve into an embassy. In any case, as for today, the representative will have plenty of things to do in Moscow.

Prime Minister Chernomyrdin Visits Iturup

OW2908011393

[Editorial Report] Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk Teleradiokompaniya Sakhalin Television Network in Russian at 1905 GMT on 23 August in its 55-minute "Morning Program" carries a 31-minute video report by Aleksandr Perevozchikov on Prime Minister Chernomyrdin's visit to Iturup Island in the Kurils.

The report opens with video showing Chernomyrdin's arrival in Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk, and after a stopover of about 20 minutes he and his delegation depart for Iturup

aboard an An-72 aircraft. Video then shows Chernomyrdin and the delegation on the tarmac of the Burevestnik Airport being briefed by Krasnoyarov, the governor of Sakhalin, on local transportation shortcomings. Krasnoyarov states: "We need three airfields here, here, and in the north [indicating the positions on a map] as base points for the three rayons because practical navigation is useless from the beginning of November until spring.

Chernomyrdin asks: "Which rayons?"

Krasnoyarov replies: "The Kurilskiy, the Severo-Kurilskiy, and the Yuzhno-Kurilskiy Rayons."

Valeriy Ivanovich Belonosov, responsible for transport and communication issues in the oblast, suggests to Chernomyrdin that seaplane services—somewhat neglected in recent years—be reinstated as a quick resolution to the problem. The party then departs for Kurilsk in four military helicopters.

After being welcomed by rayon dignitaries, Chernomyrdin is surrounded by citizens. One complains that the island "lacks an owner" to care for things; though surrounded by water and with fishing as their livelihood, there is little or no fish available for the local inhabitantss, and any that is available costs 50 rubles per fish. Joint Russian ventures with Koreans, Japanese, and Chinese seem to benefit only those individuals and not "ordinary folk like us". Another citizen suggests people are pocketing the money. Chernomyrdin listens without comment.

Chernomyrdin then visits a fish processing plant and inspects a red caviar production shop. The correspondent notes that Japanese specialists work here on contract, preparing caviar for the Japanese market for which the plant will receive $100,000, with which it intends to buy new machinery. Chernomyrdin listens to the plant staff as they complain about the cost of air fares to the mainland, lack of fruit and food products on the island, and private fishing rights. Again Chernomyrdin makes no comment.

Chernomyrdin moves on to a meeting at the rayon center with leaders of the Kurilskiy and Yuzhno-Kurilskiy rayon administrations, deputies from all levels, enterprise leaders, and representatives of the community. Gennadiy Dolin, mayor of Kurilskiy Rayon, says only one out of seven points of Yeltsin's edict on the Kurils has been realized; he also talks about the inequities in distribution of fishing quotas. Chernomyrdin asks about the situation with food and housing, to which Dolin replies the situation is serious because it all stems from the problems he had just outlined. Money for construction of a school has been allocated by the oblast administration, but no actual money is forthcoming, and he cannot get the contractor to build the school and then have him wait for up to a year for payment.

Chernomyrdin asks the builder to comment. The builder outlines the problem with delayed payments for housing built last year. Another long time resident fisherman makes a rambling, impassioned speech about the problems encountered with living on the Kurils and the poor state of the fishing industry, criticizes parliamentary infighting and top heavy local administration, and calls for immediate reinstatement of order. Another citizen speaks about the distribution of fishing rights.

Perevozchikov comments over Chernomyrdin's remarks on the emotionally charged atmosphere of the meeting; after the correspondent stops speaking, Chernomyrdin's comments become audible.

Chernomyrdin says: "The main thing is that there should be a master [khozyain] in the country and here [pauses, then answers someone in the crowd]—thank you for saying it. I will mention it to the president that it is high time. Since we are here, let us talk about your problems. Of course, what you are not doing is building schools, hospitals, housing, and roads. Your plant is also in need of [pauses] a building materials plant, a food plant. Of course these are all issues that must be resolved right here and not by Chernomyrdin, Yeltsin, or Khasbulatov. However, as I wanted to say first, it is bad that edicts are not being implemented, and I think we must see to it that edicts concerning the Kurils are implemented. [Chernomyrdin briefly confers with Krasnoyarov.] We have just agreed that we will re- examine these points when we return to Yuzhno-Sakhalinsk. I think there are some customs duties issues to be decided—that is, not to impose duties on items concerned with imported technology. It is not right that duties are imposed on technology and equipment being brought in. We will examine the tax situation and how the tax burden is being distributed—all this must be looked at again. We cannot continue to live this way. To have all this wealth, available by the millions of tonnes, and yet have the people living in poverty. This is not in accord with our ideology, business, methods of approach, and reforms. I am not talking about joint stock companies because, in essence, these are not state enterprises. But that is not the point. The issues you have raised here must be addressed to the leaders who head these organizations and these joint stock companies; after all, we all live in the same state and under state laws, the laws of Russia.

"All this must be directed back here, to the people who live and work here. How can we better understand this? If you have private companies, business firms, partnerships, and the like... [changes thought] Or are we again fooling ourselves and duping the ordinary people? Again the economy is not going in the direction that it should. There is authority here after all, and it must be used. Being an economist and having worked in many capacities, I know a thing or two. I understand that if there is no master to look after things, then you will not be able get anything off the ground and what is left will collapse.

"So what is the issue here, why can the fully privatized fish processing plant not do anything? Who will get it moving? There is only you and I, and it is not up to me to worry about it. The plant must transfer money to the

state and help the state in the upkeep of the army, teachers, and all the other things covered by the budget. We had a system where we looked to the raykom [rayon party committee], the obkom [oblast party committee], and the CPSU, but now we are finished with all of that because it is not there any longer, so to whom should we look? Now that you have created the present organizations, you must encourage and not inhibit them, and must work with them. Do not transfer or deposit money somewhere else, but invest it in such a way so that you have a life here."

Chernomyrdin further adds: "I agree that not all the mechanisms function as they should. I am certain all the issues we are looking at will come back here to the local rayon, kray, or oblast for decision. Certainly, we will occasionally have to visit a place where presidential edicts or government decrees and directives are not working, but if every time I had to go and listen and find out why edicts and directives signed by me are not being carried out, I would have to be constantly travelling. I do not have time for that—no one wants such a chairman of government.

"I need to understand the problem as a whole. This is how I see it: the people right here on this spot certainly must be responsible for the distribution of all this wealth. People here must watch and ensure that taxes are paid and tax money is spent properly; control over these organizations must first be exercised at the local and then at the oblast level. Who is to do this? As I told the deputy chairman of your Fishing Committee—the former Minrybkhoz [Ministry for Fishing Industry]—I say it again to you: It will not be Chernomyrdin or anyone from Moscow distributing it. We do not need this! On the contrary, we want you here to distribute everything so that it benefits you, so that the fish and caviar that you produce benefits you. We do not need any of this; this is not the state's business, but yours. I do not want to blame anyone here because I have not looked into your affairs in detail, and I do not really want to talk about that, but you are entitled to look at them yourself. All of you need to act more courageously. Simplify all your organizations.

"There are issues concerning payments and the banks not working. We will be in Petropavlovsk-Kamchatskiy and will examine this again to see how we can help. The fact that builders are not working is not the fault of the builders but the fault of the entire banking system which is not working. Credits are not reaching the recipients, payments are not being made on time, and there is no currency flow; if there is no currency flow, the builders are unable to buy construction materials. So if this is the problem, then you have to start using your own banks more operationally for credits and must push things through starting here at the rayon level, or at least at the oblast level.

"In any event, please understand that we no longer have the levers to operate this system from Moscow. There is no need. We have dismantled this so we can untie the hands of business here. Today we support all forms of ownership, but not to the detriment of those who live here or to the state as a whole. This is what leaders at all levels should understand. If there are any businessmen here today—leaders of private organizations—do not play with fire and do not be cunning, because you will fool yourselves first and not the people. A normal businessman will first be concerned about the home base where he lives. This is a normal businessman and not the 'fly-by-night' type, in quotation marks. Russia does not need businessmen of that type. They will not put Russia back on its feet, but will ruin it. This is where you have to use your authority. Whose hands are we putting the economy into? That is the fundamental factor you must understand. It is not Chernomyrdin who has to make these decisions but you, here, on the spot.

"I can understand that perhaps without our influence and interference it may be difficult. I am prepared to help, and that is the reason we have come here—to look at and evaluate the situation as a whole. Again, you have to decide many issues at meetings such as these. There are only 10,000 of you here, and it is possible to gather all of you once a month since you know each other personally."

Someone from the audience says that they never come together.

Chernomyrdin replies: "That is bad. It is bad you do not meet, mix, and speak to each other. It is bad that you do not speak to the leaders in person. It is the same with the plant management. Perhaps it is because he is inexperienced. He was a regimental commander who knows leadership and knows how to lead. So lead!"

An unidentified female speaker from the audience raises the territorial issue and says that the government should make a decision one way or the other so people can plan accordingly. As regards authority, she says no one wants to take responsibility for private enterprise, no one can say why coal was not delivered, and no one organizes anything despite meetings and mutinies which have been held. Everything has reached the point of apathy. She considers the islands' population to be held hostage due to the lack or high cost of transport to the mainland. Everything seems to stem from the unsolved territorial issue, she says.

Chernomyrdin replies: "I want to say this right here and now, and I want you to pass it on to all the others. We do not want somebody else's land, and we will never surrender our own. We are not talking to anyone about this. However, we do have irresponsible chatter around the country, and those who are playing around with these toys [indicates the microphone] are poisoning, literally poisoning the people, particularly those who live here. We never planned to give the islands back and never will. We are not discussing this issue at all." The audience begins to applaud, and the video report ends.

Dudayev Reaffirms Chechnya's Independence

PM3108110193 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 21 Aug 93 First Edition pp 1, 4

[Report by Nikolay Gritchin: "Despite the Many Problems in Chechnya, Dudayev Is Full of Optimism"]

[Excerpts] Groznyy—Groznyy becomes empty as darkness falls, but cars, including a lot of foreign models, still rush along at top speed, braking alarmingly at crossroads (drivers are not allowed to sound their horn). Drifting off to sleep, you hear shots, sometimes rounds of submachine-gun fire. Often, it is simply firing into the air: If an intrepid driver does not immediately obey a sign to stop or if he drives past a wedding procession.... But there are worse cases: Two days before my arrival, a guardsman was shot at the wheel of his car. [passage omitted]

However, answering my question about the economic results of the republic's two years of independent development during a conversation with a group of journalists, President Dudayev was full of optimism.

[Dudayev] Since the republic proclaimed independence, all kinds of blockades, including an economic blockade, have been declared against it. But Chechnya has demonstrated its strength and independence. We are doing everything possible to prevent the kind of disintegration seen in Russia. We have introduced a state order system and state prices for basic goods. We are implementing several targeted programs. For example, large amounts of money are being invested in a medical care program. It will allow us to overcome the consequences of genocide, as a result of which our republic had the highest infant mortality rate in the USSR, as well as the lowest life expectancy and the highest incidence of tuberculosis, cancer, and intestinal diseases. We are not asking for help from anyone. The main thing is not to stand in our way.

[Gritchin] When can we expect Chechnya to introduce its own currency? According to a report by the National Bank leadership, the notes have been printed and are up to world standards.

[Dudayev] I am no banker. The chairman of the National Bank must know when the currency will be introduced.

[Gritchin] Former Vice Premier Ya. Mamodayev has claimed in one of the newspapers that last year Chechnya sold oil, including Russia's quota, for a total of $1 billion. And, according to him, only 5 percent of this amount has been paid into the republic's budget. Where is the rest?

[Dudayev] First, we process oil, mainly from the CIS. Naturally, we despatch petroleum products without delay in line with the demands of these countries. Second, according to the case file, Mamodayev and his cronies gobbled up the lion's share of all material assets. Mamodayev alone signed away petroleum products worth billions, and that money was transferred to accounts in the Baltics, Ukraine, Russia, Turkey, and other countries. Now he has access to the mass media in Moscow and is talking nonsense. But it will not save him. We have demanded that criminals who have committed crimes against the state and the people be returned here. We return to Russia everyone caught here during operations in which our men lose their lives.

[Gritchin] The Terek Cossacks are concerned by the situation of the Slav population in North Caucasian republics, Chechnya in particular. As a mark of protest against the oppression of the Russians, the Cossacks have taken action to block roads, of which you are no doubt aware. What do you think about this? How do you feel the situation can be resolved?

[Dudayev] No interethnic problems are referred to by the Constitution of the Chechen Republic. No action regarding nationalities is being taken here. If there is any problem, it is the problem of brutal violence against the Chechen people. Even here, the Chechen people are tortured by sabotage, provocation, terror, and genocide. What does it mean not to pay pensions for two years? Why do the Cossacks and Russians who live here not ask the Russian authorities where their pensions are? But no, they demand them from Dudayev. Despite the fact that Dudayev himself does not receive the pension he has earned after 30 years in the Armed Forces. What kind of stand is this on Russia's part?

Look what is happening to Chechens in Russia itself. Who do you think is being deprived of housing? The shepherds who have fed entire hungry oblasts. A gathering of Cossacks decides to evict the Chechens, confiscate their property for the settlement, and take their livestock at 20 rubles per kilogram live weight. There are hundreds of cases like these in Astrakhan, Rostov, and Volgograd Oblasts and in Stavropol and Krasnodar Krays. But there are limits to our patience.

[Gritchin] If I am not mistaken, you once said that civil war in Chechnya is impossible because of a blood feud—a powerful restraining factor. But blood was shed in Theater Square this summer. Does this mean the republic is on the brink of civil war?

[Dudayev] Not at all. There will always be rebel elements. Arrant criminals committed a crime in a skirmish. There was an opportunity to flush them all out and they have now been caught. I have given the command that no one should be touched. All those who took up arms against Chechens and spilled even a drop of their blood are themselves condemned men. Those who incited murder will also be punished. Such is the law of the mountains, the law of the Chechens: It is not my invention. Of what use are they to me in jail? Besides, ways would be found to get rid of them even there. The state power does not need any more corpses.

There will be no civil war here, however much they may try to foist one upon us by allocating vast resources from the Russian budget. According to current information,

the Russian special services are taking action to physically remove Dudayev. All our problems, all rebel attacks under the guise of opposition demonstrations, and all acts of terrorism and sabotage are engendered there. But it is quite possible that, at the most critical point, the Chechen opposition will get together and focus all its strength in another direction. That danger does exist. Moscow is probably aware of it.

[Gritchin] What steps can we expect from you and your close associates to achieve a breakthrough in the republic? Do you intend to hold a referendum on key issues?

[Dudayev] Any referendum or political action must have stabilization as its result. There is no need to hold a referendum and stir things up at present. The majority of members of parliament are in favor of rule-of-law parliamentary activity, so that it cannot be sullied. They are now preparing to resume work and are clearing away everything negative that has appeared with intent, including on a wave of adventurism. We must build the economy and social guarantees. These will be the specific steps we take.

[Gritchin] Can the treaty on borders concluded by Chechnya and Ingushetia be seen as a step toward unification? In this connection, how do you regard Russia's hopes of keeping Ingushetia in its camp?

[Dudayev] I do not know why Ingushetia and other republics are so necessary to Russia. I fail to see what friendly feelings the Ingush people could have for the Russian people after what has happened. Our treaty with Ingushetia is definitely a step toward unity. At least we must resolve all our problems ourselves.

[Gritchin] What is your forecast regarding the Ossetian-Ingush conflict?

[Dudayev] Russia is strengthening Ossetia, of course. Polyanichko's murder set a precedent whereby the mechanism could swing into action. Russian troops are not involved in the conflict, they say: It is simply the Ingush and Ossetians fighting amongst themselves. The situation has turned nasty. The prognosis does not bode well. By inflaming passions between small peoples, Russia is drawing misfortune toward itself in the center this autumn.

[Gritchin] The question of Russia's territorial state structure has not been finally decided. What kind of link with Russia would you choose? A confederation perhaps?

[Dudayev] We do not need to be given any opportunity. We have already taken our opportunity. The Chechen Republic is an independent, sovereign state and it will build good-neighborly relations with everyone on an equal footing. We will accept no other form of relations. We will never be under anyone's thumb again, whatever the slogans and sops with which they may try to tempt us. Because we, like no other nation in the world, have realized what this means and where it leads. We want independence, and that's that!

[Gritchin] They say you have a direct line to Yeltsin. When did you last speak with the Russian president on the telephone?

[Dudayev] I have no direct line to Moscow. I have never spoken to President Yeltsin.

[Gritchin] According to the press, Khasbulatov has been forced to remove even his nephews from Groznyy, because the threats against his family have become constant.

[Dudayev] Another farce. There have been reports, quoting Khasbulatov, that Dudayev is preparing an attempt on his life. Terrorism and gangsterism—particularly against innocent relatives, women, and children—are the domain of gangsters. I despise these methods.

[Gritchin] I hear you play billiards with Mr. Gamsakhurdia. What is the score?

[Dudayev] I rarely play billiards. It just happened once that there was a billiards table, we knocked a few balls around, and now we are billiards players....

Shumeyko Visits St. Petersburg, Views Facilities

LD3008154393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1530 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Lyudmila Fomichyova]

[Text] St. Petersburg August 30 TASS—"The Good Will Games will certainly take place as the degree of readiness of sport objects in St. Petersburg is high," Vladimir Shumeyko, first vice-premier of the Russian Government, who is currently on a visit to St. Petersburg, told ITAR-TASS.

Less than a year is left before the opening of a grandiose sports festival, therefore the reconstruction work at sport objects in the city is going full swing. Vladimir Shumeyko has begun his familiarization with sport objects in the city today with a visit to the main sport arena—the S. Kirov stadium. It is planned to hold at this stadium the ceremonies of opening and closing of the games, and a spectacular display of fireworks. The first vice-premier also visited a rowing canal, the "Yubileiny" and "Neva" palaces of sports, an army sports club's swimming pool, a sport-and-concert complex, as well as the "Petrovskiy" stadium.

Construction work is being carried out on all sport objects, and the only essential problem is the shortage of financial means. According to Vitaliy Mutko, deputy mayor of St. Petersburg in charge of social issues, at the beginning of this year the Russian Government allocated three billion roubles to finance the preparation for the Good Will Games. So far the city has received only half

the sum. In accordance with present estimates, 18 billion roubles will be needed to accomplish all reconstruction work.

"Now there is no shortage of clients, supply of materials and equipment, the only problem is money. And the government will resolve the problem of financing sport projects," Vladimir Shumeyko believes.

"Statements have appeared lately that now it is not the time for the Good Will Games as Russia has been going through serious economic difficulties. I am of a different opinion which has become stronger after what I have seen here in St. Petersburg and at the objects under reconstruction. At the time when russia has been implementing reforms one should not sink into pessimism, on the contrary, it is necessary to give the people the possibility to watch a beautiful sports festival. St. Petersburg will derive benefit from this as the city will acquire good sport objects which can be used for other events attracting tourists," the first vice-premier of the Russian Government pointed out.

Financing of Chelyabinsk Administration Suspended

PM3008133993 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 26 Aug 93 First Edition p 2

[German Galkin report: "No Power without Money"]

[Text] Chelyabinsk—In Chelyabinsk, by decision of Sergey Danilenko, acting chief of the Central Bank of Russia [CBR] Main Administration for Chelyabinsk Oblast, financing of the operation of the existing oblast administration of Vadim Solovyev has been suspended.

IZVESTIYA was informed of this by Boris Mityurev, press secretary of the oblast head of administration. As became clear, Danilenko's decision was motivated by a letter from Yuriy Voronin, deputy chairman of the Russian Supreme Soviet which says that as the decision of the 17th Session of the Chelyabinsk Oblast Soviet on the entry into office of new head of administration Petr Sumin had not been appealed in court, the Central Bank of Russia has to finance the Sumin administration.

The press secretary of Vladimir Shumeyko, first vice premier of the Russian Government, confirmed Vadim Solovyev's powers. The election of Sumin was deemed unlawful by a ruling of the Chelyabinsk Oblast Court just prior to the election in April, while the decision of the 17th session on Sumin's entry into office as head of administration was in actual fact protested in court.

The Solovyev administration has sent a telegram to the president in which it describes what has happened as a seizure of executive power by procommunist forces.

Rallies Held

PM3008132993 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 28 Aug 93 p 1

[Anatoliy Belozertsev report: "Confrontation in Revolution Square"]

[Text] Chelyabinsk—On 26 August Chelyabinsk's Revolution Square became an arena of heated political battles. A rally of the city's workers organized by the bloc of left-wing and people's patriotic forces in support of P. Sumin, elected oblast administration chief this spring, began at 1700 hours. An hour later, a rally in support of V. Solovyev, the former administration chief who was appointed two years ago by the president, was organized by his supporters in the "Free Ural" movement. It is not the first time there has been such a confrontation in Chelyabinsk.

Participants in the rally organized by the bloc of left-wing forces appealed to the Russian president, Supreme Court chairman, and Central Bank chairman to immediately recognize P. Sumin, the legally elected administration chief.

'First Major Protest' by Moscow Workers Held

PM3008153193 Moscow SOVETSKAYA ROSSIYA in Russian 28 Aug 93 p 2

[Galina Orekhanova report: "Moscow Workers' Rally"]

[Text] It seems that workers are starting to realize increasingly clearly that they have been deceived. They have been cruelly and shamelessly deceived.

All this was discussed at a Moscow rally convened in the square by Avtozavodskaya subway station 25 August, a rally which despite expectations—large demonstrations had taken place as recently as on the 19th, 20th, and 21st—attracted thousands of people.

Every sincere word of truth was greeted with a roar of approval by the mass of people. The following refrain was heard: We have been replaced by speculators, not only housing but also the right we have earned to obtain it have been taken away from us, we are starving, we are stuck in front of machinery for eight hours a day but the money is going to those who loaf around and speculate.

Every rally has its own character. Here, at the first major protest meeting of Moscow workers, the mood is businesslike and serious. There was an unequivocal "no" to Yeltsin, prices, and [Moscow Mayor] Luzhkov.

There was no fussing around here. Somebody said "Form up!" And they moved off: with a sea of red banners, a firm step, and resoluteness on their faces. People in the capital's Proletarskiy Rayon greeted the procession from their windows and balconies.

International Affairs

Zlenko Views Priorities in Foreign Policy

AU3008161593 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Aug 93 p 5

[Article by Anatoliy Zlenko, minister of foreign affairs, "especially for HOLOS UKRAYINY": "Ukraine Is a Factor of European and World Policy"]

[Text] *Two years have passed since that historic day when the Supreme Council adopted the Act on Ukrainian Independence. It is quite a difficult task to fathom the radical changes that have occurred over these two years in our state and in the world. The more time passes since the proclamation of our independence, the better we perceive the whole greatness of that event, especially now that the euphoria of those months has subsided and we regard our first steps along the road toward independence from the point of view of the two-year experience of practical state-building work.*

The challenges of time with which Ukraine became confronted after its emergence upon the historical stage in the role of an independent state have dictated the need for us to resolve quite a number of complicated external political problems. Not only is independence a great achievement, but also a great responsibility of the state before its people and before the entire world.

At the time we built the foundation for our new external policy, we could see better than anybody else those enormous difficulties and obstacles that we were expected to overcome. We started our external activity from quite elementary things, on whose creation and improvement the majority of European nations had devoted decades or even centuries. These are, first and foremost, the building of the network of our embassies, consular offices, and other institutions abroad; employment of skilled cadres capable of resolving new problems; and adaptation of the Foreign Ministry's structure to its new tasks and functions.

We had to create, practically from zero, a proper normative foundation for a normal functioning of organs of Ukraine's external relations. That was extremely difficult and painstaking work, which was conducted in conditions of a lack of coordinated actions among various departments and institutions of the newly created state. At the same time, intensive activity was devoted to creating international legal foundations for Ukraine's extensive ties with other states, international organizations, and structures.

At the first stage of building the state, the main task of the external political department lay, so to speak, in spreading the news of the very fact of existence of the young independent country at the center of Europe. The "wave of recognitions" that started right after the December referendum reflected, with particular vividness, the interest and sympathy with which the world community welcomed the emergence of Ukraine as an independent state and its first steps on the road it had chosen.

From the almost total absence abroad of any idea about Ukraine and from the natural interest that was sometimes mixed with surprise and mistrust, we have passed to a realization by the leading circles of European and world states of that exceptionally important fact that postwar Europe has ceased to be a postwar Europe in the traditional sense of the notion. New countries became involved in the building of a European home, countries that have introduced their unique features into the general architecture. The political, ideological, military, and cultural landscape of the European continent has changed. Europe has become complicated and, at the same time, more homogeneous. Europe has become confronted with new tasks, and it can no longer resolve them "by parts." It is, perhaps, the first time in recent history that the notion "Europe" has started to coincide with the political content of the notion.

In order that the European and world political thinking could comprehend these virtually determining realities of the contemporary international situation, well thought-out and persistent external political work was necessary. Today, we can assert that, **politically, Ukraine has already returned to Europe.**

Naturally, we could not distinguish all the outlines of the barely visible future in those days that have already become a matter of historical archives. However, I would like to point out that a certain lack of coincidence between the actual course of events and everything that we thought and dreamed about has not disappointed us, but, on the contrary, has led us to regard all the changes in the political situation from the point of view of sober calculation and has rendered our policy more flexible and better adapted to today's harsh realities.

For example, our hopes for quick assistance from the Western countries have clashed with the fact that these countries, suffering serious crisis phenomena in their own economies, were unable to allocate sufficient resources for supporting young independent states, including Ukraine. It is true that it would be a mistake not to notice certain prejudices and obsolete stereotypes in the policy of some countries.

It was also, generally speaking, difficult to take into consideration the fact that, with the cessation of the military and political confrontation between the two alliances, the world could not become more secure and that the level of predictability in the behavior of states could not, in any way, improve.

Bloody conflicts continue in various regions of he world, and, in order to reconcile the warring sides, much effort and many resources are necessary on the part of advanced countries and on the part of the entire world community. International organizations that were created for supporting and guaranteeing peace have become confronted with new challenges that forced the world to

change its attitude to many problems whose unambiguous resolution has not been achieved to this day.

Ukraine does not exist in a vacuum or in isolation from the world and from these events. We saw the whole complexity of the new situation and tried to steer our external political ship through the underwater reefs that have emerged in place of contradictions between the countries of the world and in place of collisions between dissimilar and sometimes opposed interests and trends.

The most important achievement of the last two years is the fact that Ukraine has been recognized in the world as an equal member of the international community. Its voice sounds at authoritative forums, its position is getting support from many countries, its ideas are being heeded, and its interests are being taken into account in decisionmaking. Ukraine's position is a factor of European and world policy that can no longer be ignored by leaderships of individual countries or by international organizations.

The most graphic example of this is the recent statement by the chairman of the UN Security Council on the question concerning the "status of Sevastopol." In resolving this problem, Ukraine received full support on the part of the United Nations, European organizations, and leading states of the world. It was a significant victory for the young Ukrainian diplomacy, a victory that was achieved owing to efficient decisionmaking, mobility, and fast reaction to events. Ukraine's position got such a decisive international support because its honesty, integrity, adherence to the generally accepted norms of international law and principles of mutual relations between countries, and its punctuality and balance were obvious to everybody.

Still, many problems that need to be urgently resolved remain on the agenda of Ukraine's external political activity. We must not waste any time. Our actions must be compatible both with the internal and international realities and processes that are taking place in the contemporary turbulent world. Time must work in our favor, in the favor of our young state, and in the favor of resolving the problems of our development.

Realizing its responsibility for achieving this cause, Ukrainian diplomacy sees one of its main tasks in promoting, by all possible means, the extrication of the country from the economic crisis. The creation of favorable international conditions for implementing economic reform in Ukraine is, today, our priority task, and we have a distinct program for actions in this direction. However, this program will acquire realistic features and will be efficiently implemented only provided that there is a single specific plan for emergence from the crisis and for advancement of the economic reform. Such a plan must unite our people for achieving a joint goal: To have a strong and developed state and to ensure well-being for our people.

As a result of the failure of previous attempts to build its own statehood, Ukraine is entering the family of European nations with a delay. In this connection, it is essential to create its positive image in the world and to improve trust in it on the part of the international community, which must see in it a reliable and predictable partner and a state with which it is worthwhile and useful to cooperate.

However, here, too, we must realize that the attitude toward us abroad largely depends upon our political and economic development. Our partners perceive our internal failures and defeats with understanding and regard them as inevitable during the transitional period.

Ukrainian diplomats put in much effort to explain our state's internal and external policy and objective factors that form its political and socioeconomic image. However, this credit of confidence cannot be boundless. That is why we must try and instill in the consciousness of the world and European community a positive attitude toward Ukraine, an attitude that already exists. We must also overcome the ideological obstacles that have remained from the past epoch of confrontation between the alliances.

Returning to the image of a Ukrainian home in a European street, I want to reiterate that it is the facade alone that we have renewed with the help of political and diplomatic instruments. However, the "internal work" does not proceed the way we would like it to proceed—not so fast and smoothly as our neighbors are counting upon. That is why foreign creditors, investors, industrialists, bankers, businessmen, and specialists are in no hurry to come to us. Well, they are here, but they only arrive in order to look around, show their presence, and nothing more than that. Unfortunately, they are in no hurry to assist us by working with us.

The logic of our relations with other countries and international organizations has revealed a need to specify clearly our external political interests and strategic trends of work. With the increase in the scope of external activity, problems that we had to resolve have changed qualitatively, as also have the priorities. I want to stress once again that we have achieved much over these two years and have learned much. The main thing is that we have understood and determined what we must do next. Our experience and our goals and tasks have found expression in the policy document—"The Main Trends in Ukraine's External Policy"—that was recently approved by the Supreme Council. We must be guided by this document at all stages of our work without exception; readers of our newspaper and all those who take an interest in our external policy have an idea of its content in general features.

Two years is only a moment in the history of a state or in its diplomatic service. The thing is that we are now different from what we used to be in August 1991 and we can see better what we must do. Our state possesses the necessary potential and our people's work will make it

prosperous. Joint efforts are needed. These are not mere words. We sincerely count upon understanding and support on the part of the Ukrainian people who may be sure that the state is doing everything in order to ensure their well-being, peace, and accord. Ukrainian diplomats are well aware of the great responsibility before their own people and nations of the world.

I am taking this opportunity to congratulate all readers of HOLOS UKRAYINY on the second anniversary of Ukraine's independence and sincerely wish them happiness, health, peace, and accord, and also faith—faith in the future of our state.

Membership in Economic Union With Russia, Belarus Assessed

Kuchma Accused of Violating Constitution

AU3008204293 Kiev NARODNA HAZETA in Ukrainian No. 33 (114), Aug 93 p 5

[Commentary by Associate Professor Volodymyr Doroshkevych: "Prime Minister Independent of the President? It Is Dangerous"]

[Text] In an interview for Ukrainian Radio on 17 August, Prime Minister L. Kuchma said he could swear on the Bible that, by signing the 19 July statement by the governments of Belarus, the Russian Federation, and Ukraine, he did not in any way cause any damage to Ukraine's national interests, because the statement was only a protocol on intentions. It this really so?

On 14 May 1993, nine CIS member states, including Ukraine, signed a declaration of the member states in which they stated "their determination to proceed along the road of deep integration and the creation of a common market for the free movement of goods, services, capital, and labor resources in the common economic area of the aforementioned states, and to proceed, stage by stage, toward an economic union." Leonid Kravchuk made a reservation: "except for the notion 'economic union.'" On the same day, a resolution was adopted on measures for creating an economic union of CIS member states and, on 1 June 1993 in Minsk, the "Coordinating and Consultative Committee was authorized to start preparing drafts of an Agreement on the Creation of an Economic Union of CIS Member States and other necessary documents, proceeding from the coordinated understanding of the essence of the economic union that was reached in the course of the meeting of the Council of the Heads of States of the Commonwealth on 14 May 1993." Again, our president made a reservation "with the exception of the notion 'economic union' and main principles that proceed from it and are relevant to the content of the future document."

Let us note that this reservation contradicts the words in the declaration "on the ...determination... to proceed, stage by stage, toward an economic union." Why sign a document if such fundamental differences exist? The question remains unanswered. Therefore, by way of implementing the decision adopted by the heads of state, recommendations were elaborated for preparing drafts of an Agreement on the Creation of an Economic Union of CIS States. These particular recommendations were signed, on behalf of Ukraine, by Prime Minister L. Kuchma, who repeated those presidential reservations. Consequently, L. Kuchma supported L. Kravchuk's line in his determination to proceed toward an economic union, although both of them rejected the notion "economic union." Whereas the president provided for a political substantiation (with reservations) of the movement toward an economic union, the premier had to elaborate an economic substantiation of that process, more specifically, to speak about intentions. This is what V. Kebich and V. Chernomyrdin did in their 10 July statement, which was signed by L. Kuchma already without reservations. Where are then the previous reservations made by L. Kravchuk and L. Kuchma on 14 May?

An analysis of the content of the statement signed by L. Kuchma shows that it simply disposes of all the previous reservations. One reads this: "Expressing their firm intention to take part in the elaboration and implementation, within the framework of the CIS, of the Agreement on the Creation of an Economic Union, the governments believe that measures for a closer integration of their economies will promote the accomplishment of goals and principles of the agreement." However, both the president and the premier were against the notion "economic union." Why did L. Kuchma eventually agree with this wording? The inconsistency here is obvious. In other words, if L. Kuchma declared "intentions," they clash with Ukraine's national interests, which he, together with the president, defended in May. "The governments believe," continues the statement, "that urgent measures for economic integration must encompass the spheres... of monetary and credits, financial, and currency... relations." That is to say, everything is the other way round by comparison with the position maintained by L. Kravchuk and L. Kuchma on 14 May when "the coordination of the financial, monetary and credits, and currency policy" within the framework of the CIS was unacceptable for Ukraine. It follows, therefore, that, in this case, L. Kuchma exceeded his powers and thereby violated Article 117 of Ukraine's Constitution in accordance with which the prime minister must be subordinated in his activity to Ukraine's president. The same violation of the Constitution may also be seen in L. Kuchma's joining the statement's words to the effect that "The governments proceed from the fact that economic integration cannot be accomplished in isolation and without a broad and comprehensive interaction in political, defense, and legislative spheres," because, on 14 May, the president spoke against Ukraine's comprehensive interaction with CIS member states in political and military spheres.

That is why, having abandoned, as a result of signing the statement, the subordination to the president who,

according to Article 114-5, item one, of the Constitution, "acts as a guarantor of ...Ukraine's state sovereignty." L. Kuchma does harm to the national interests of independent Ukraine. Leonid Danylovych [Kuchma] should not have sworn on the Bible, because he acted like those scribes and Pharisees about whom Jesus Christ said to the people and disciples: "...do not follow them, because they speak, but do not do! They bind heavy burdens that are difficult to carry and put them on other people's shoulders; but they themselves do not want to touch them even with their little finger" (The Gospel of Matthew, 23: 3, 4)

Parties Oppose Economic Union

WS3108093893 Kiev KHRESHCHATYK in Ukrainian 20 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Open Letter to President"]

[Text] From the Democratic Party of Ukraine, Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists, Ukrainian Green Party, and Republican Party of Ukraine. An open letter to the president:

Assuming the tendency to transform the CIS into a closed economic association, it should be anticipated that, in the near future on the territory of former USSR, there will be created a so-called Euro-Asian Economic Association that is adopting a political tinge already from its beginning. The attempt to enmesh Ukraine and Belarus in an economic union is Russia's first step along the path to form such an association. Under such circumstances, Ukraine must make a historical decision—to be one of the originators of this association (like it was in 1922 when the USSR was established) or to move toward, first of all, integration with post-communist countries of Eastern Europe, and in perspective, to find its place in united Europe. So reads an open letter to Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk.

We presume, the letter continues, that the path to a stable and wealthy Ukraine leads through deep transformation of our economy into a market oriented one with the priority of private property, financial and monetary reform, structural reconstruction, conversion to energy-saving technologies, and development of internal cooperation. To attain this, appropriate state programs should be promptly drafted and brought into effect.

This path should include deepening of bilateral economic links in all fields, which is desirable by both sides, including Russia. The agreements on introducing free trade with Lithuania could serve as a striking example of such cooperation.

Taking into account the relatively small gap between our economies, geographic location, and economic infrastructure, we believe that it would be apt to establish a Baltic-Black Sea regional economic cooperation union comprising Eastern Europe's post-communist countries, Ukraine, Belarus, Moldova, and the Baltic states, so reads the open letter.

'Roundtable' Favors Economic Union

AU3008110893 Kiev DEMOKRATYCHNA UKRAYINA in Ukrainian 26 Aug 93 p 1

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Moment": "More Than 20 Parties Are in Favor of an Economic Union"]

[Text] "More than 20 parties are in favor of an economic union." This was stated by their representatives during the "roundtable" that was held in Kiev on 20 August. It was attended by leaders of the Civic Congress, Communist and Socialist parties, the Labor Party, the Slavic Union Party, the associations "The Workers' Union," "The Union of Communists," "Working Ukraine," the Union of Industrialists and Entrepreneurs, as well as a number of other organizations. The participants in the "roundtable" stressed the following: The integration of Ukraine's economy with that of other parts of the former USSR is so high that any artificial severance of ties with markets of raw materials, energy sources, and sales of products will speed up the decline in production, the disintegration of labor collectives, monetary inflation, and a deterioration of the standard of living. It will intensify social stratification in terms of property, and will, in the future, lead to serious social conflicts.

National Affairs

Kuchma Asks Parliament for 'Special Powers'

AU3108101493 Paris AFP in English 0954 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev, Aug 31 (AFP)—The Ukrainian prime minister asked parliament Tuesday [31 August] to grant him special powers to cope with the former Soviet republic's economic crisis until early elections are held.

Leonid Kuchma, the only Ukrainian leader to retain popular support, wanted "all structures of the executive, including the presidential administration" to be subject to the prime minister. He also asked for the right to issue decrees and suggested that the Ukrainian Central Bank should be under government not parliamentary orders.

The prime minister also asked lawmakers for the right to "dismiss members of the government," with the exception of those whose appointment must be approved by the parliament (foreign minister, defence minister and security minister).

The parliament, which in May rejected Kuchma's request to extend the special powers he was accorded in December, was debating ways of coping with the country's economic crisis.

The debate was centred on a government programme to "stabilise the financial system and emerge from the recession."

The republic is also trying to cope with an increasingly deep political crisis. The minister of the economy, Yuriy

Bannikov, was dismissed Monday [30 August] by presidential decree just days after the deputy prime minister in charge of reforms, Viktor Pynzenyk, resigned accusing the parliament of blocking his policies.

Kuchma responded by saying the present government was on its last legs.

He added that until the next elections, the government should concern itself with elaborating a new constitution and the electoral law.

More Government Resignations Expected

LD3008143893 Kiev UNIAN in Ukrainian 1316 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Kiev [no date as received]—Serhiy Teryokhin, deputy minister of the economy, has stated his intention to resign. Deputy Minister Serhiy Teryokhin said in an interview with a UNIAN correspondent today that he intends to resign immediately after Vice Premier Viktor Pynzenyk. In his words, he fully shares Viktor Pynzenyk's position with regard to the government crisis which was caused by "the cooks with diplomas from the former higher party school and posts of deputy economic managers of enterprises whom premier Leonid Kuchma rallied under his banner." In Serhiy Teryokhin's opinion, since the government completed the issuing of decrees not a single legislative act has been adopted in favor of macroeconomic policy.

With regard to the vice premier's resignation, Serhiy Teryokhin said he assumes that V. Pynzenyk became tired of swimming against the tide, arguing that the "decisions on the nonmarket division of credit resources and the fixing of the hard currency rate is defrauding Ukraine and is killing its exports."

It has been learned from well-informed sources that Mykola Zhulynskyy, deputy prime minister for humanitarian issues, also intends to submit his resignation.

Shpek Replaces Bannikov

LD3008191493 Kiev Radio Ukraine World Service in Ukrainian 1800 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Ukrainian President Leonid Kravchuk today, 30 August, signed a decree concerning changes in the composition of the government. Yuriy Bannikov was relieved of the duties of the Economy Minister at his request. Roman Shpek, until now the first deputy head of the department, was appointed to this post.

Kravchuk Addresses Trade Union Federation

LD2808193793 Kiev Ukrayinske Telebachennya Network in Ukrainian 1830 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Address by President Leonid Kravchuk to the Trade Union Federation in Kiev—live]

[Text] Esteemed members of the congress! These past two days I was also present at the Supreme Council and spoke there, expressing my point of view on this important state issue. I had no intention of touching on this particular issue, because I was hoping that the Supreme Council would make a decision, any decision, either confirming its 17 June resolution on holding a referendum on confidence in the president and the parliament, or passing a new resolution—that is the Supreme Council's right. As this is where it all began—you adopted a statement here, and the chairman has just read it—I will start by expressing my position, my point of view.

I want you to hear it from me because somehow everything is being done in a way that every speaker, or speakers, or some of the speakers, picked only those parts from the context of previous speeches by the president, the Supreme Council chairman, and the prime minister that are to their liking. They snatched them out of context and focused their attention on them, and, more often than not, deceived the people of Ukraine and the miners who spoke for the referendum.

There are people present here who probably know all too well how events then developed. They developed this way: The strike began, and the strike had a political nature. Nobody was hiding it. It was openly stated by the miners and the strike committee. What were their demands? They changed too. At first, it was a referendum on confidence in the president and the Supreme Council. The next day I had a personal conversation with leaders of the miners' strike committees, and they put forward a revised demand, probably after consultations, for early elections of councils at all levels, and for a referendum on confidence or no confidence in the president. After this telephone conversation, at the request of the strike committees, I even spoke at the Supreme Council for the second time. I said that since such a situation has emerged, I support this particular proposal: To hold a referendum on confidence in the president at the time of Supreme Council elections. This was my stance. I am not giving it up even today. I am for exactly this kind of action: To hold a referendum on confidence in the president at the time of elections to the Supreme Council of a new convocation.

I will explain why. At issue is not the president as a person, and probably not even the Supreme Council as a collective body. At issue is Ukraine as a state. I understand that holding a referendum on confidence in both the Supreme Council and the president at the same time—it is possible, in principle, I stress, possible—can lead to a vacuum in the political situation in Ukraine, to be exact, to a power vacuum.

Yes, there are reasons for criticism of this power, and even severe criticism. But, would you not agree, that total absence of power means anarchy, and this is dangerous. Believe me, I am not exaggerating. That is why I proposed it this way. I thought, when the Supreme Council adopts a decision on early elections, people are people. I do not know how some of the deputies are going to behave. Now, for example, they keep saying in the

Supreme Council that there are twice as many registration cards in the chamber as actual people sitting there. This is happening all the time now. If they make a decision on early elections, reelections, it may happen that it will be difficult to get a quorum. I am now asking: Who will be directly responsible for the state until new elections to a new parliament? The president, of course. A popularly elected president.

Elections will take place, there will be a new parliament. A possible variant is this: When a new parliament is elected, the president may lay down plenary powers on his own initiative. I will explain why. The new parliament will announce a new program although this program may not coincide with the president's program. The question will again then arise: What will be more important, the president's or the parliament's program? It is as clear as day that the newly elected parliament, as a new parliament, will have more power and support from the people than a program by the president that is not fulfilled. Is that right? Yes it is. The president, taking into consideration people's interests in ensuring no conflict in society, will then appear before the people and say: Esteemed electors, thank you for your attention, for the fact that you have persevered with me. I did what I could. What I could not do, I did not do for various reasons. Now the new parliament has announced a new course, a new strategy, a new program for its activities. I had mine. I have neither the strength nor the will to become familiar with the new program. I lay down my plenary powers, ask you to accept them, and ask you to schedule the election of a new president, one who will consider the parliament's program. Is this logical? Yes it is. They want to corner us with a referendum that has no consequences whatsoever, except moral ones.

Say tomorrow they take a decision and hold a referendum. Imagine that it is held. No confidence is expressed in the Supreme Council or the president. Later on a decision on elections is to be taken. But on what basis? Constitutional provisions are absent. There is one official, constitutional provision in the Constitution. I will read it to you as there is a lack of understanding as far as this issue is concerned. I must say this so that people can hear it. It does not mean I am pursuing any personal or ambitious point of view.

The Supreme Council of Ukraine can nominate an all-Ukrainian referendum on the issue of an early termination of the president's plenary powers upon the initiative of the citizens of Ukraine. There is no such issue in the Constitution as confidence or no confidence, but there is an issue on early termination of plenary powers. These are different things.

This referendum is valid. In other words, after the referendum is held, the president's plenary powers are terminated ahead of time and, logically, elections are nominated. Further on, the law on all-Ukrainian and local referendums clearly outlines what should be done. I asked people's deputies to reach a decision complying with Article 114/9 and relevant articles of the law on the all-Ukrainian referendum. As far as I understand, your statement also coincides, to a certain degree, with what I will say now, although there are issues on some important constitutional provisions concerning the elections and the referendum. The Supreme Council can adopt such a decision on holding such a referendum. This is envisaged by the law on the all-Ukrainian referendum. I did not and I do not pursue any other objectives.

What are they blaming the president for? First and foremost, for the fact that allegedly he was first in favor of the referendum and now he is against it. This opinion is being imposed upon people. I say authoritatively that I never came out against the referendum. I cannot do this because this is not up to the president's will, but the will of the electors, the people. Therefore, no one, if he has at least a grain of commonsense, can come out against people's will. This is the essence, but there are speculations around this, even things that are difficult to explain if one tries to add them to the Constitution and to the laws.

Direct accusations are being made, political accusations. For instance, the president is not to our liking, we voted for him and he is doing something we do not want to be done. He is not to our liking so let us topple him. But one should act in compliance with the law even if there is such a feeling. It was not the Supreme Council that elected the president. Nowhere, I stress, either in the Constitution or in legislation, will you find that the Supreme Council can nominate a presidential referendum on its own initiative, it cannot. This is logical because the Supreme Council did not elect him. But there are deputies here who say that we must be guided by revolutionary ardor, revolutionary slogans. They want this and that is it. I stressed that the danger is always the fact that while starting to build a new state, from the very start we are at the beginning of a legal solution of issues, indeed, we already establish a precedent for violations. I say it like this: If there was no norm in the Constitution and no norm in the law on all-Ukrainian and local referendums, then it is quite clear that in the absence of the norm, the Supreme Council makes a decision. But the norms are there. Be guided by these norms. This is the formal side of the matter, but it is not just literally formal. It is formal legally, which is more important than just being formal textually. We must also respect laws, the more so that they already exist and it is good that they exist.

Now let us have a look at the political side of the matter. There is a state, Ukraine. We are responsible for it, we all must take care of it, cherish it, so that it will survive. Today it is in an awful crisis. But how shall we get out of this crisis? We shall only get out of it when all of us, the Supreme Council, the government, the president, the trade unions, and all other public and political parties and organizations, think about how to do this. There is no other way out. We must not argue and must not blame each other, although there are grounds for this when the situation is difficult. We must pluck up

strength and courage to see the final objective and envisage the disorder that may emerge if we disregard the situation.

Well, Ukraine is not homogeneous. You are well aware of this. There is the east, south, west, and north. Even preliminary polls show how diverse are political and other opinions on these issues. So, any forced decision, if imposed on someone, may without fail lead to conflict. Experience and history show that if elementary norms that exist are violated, and someone wants to assume more than envisaged by the law, by legal norms, or the Constitution, then this action will evoke counteraction. Well, we stand as we can and God gave us wisdom and strength to prevent confrontation in Ukraine. I will not give examples. You know and see every day what is happening in regions where they do not act in compliance with the law. Let us just pluck up courage, no matter how difficult it may be, and admit that the fairest thing to do is to act in compliance with the law. I was, I am, and I will be in favor of this.

Here, in the Supreme Council too, they were making hints about some kind of a scenario—let us go ahead and say so—about some forces. I do not think that this is about a scenario or some forces, I think that in this case the Supreme Council reflects the situation that exists in society, although ambitions, one's personal points of view, attempts to reveal one's stand, strength, and leadership are added to this. But this is inherent in people's nature. But on the whole, delimitation does exist. This is why I think that the Supreme Council will have enough courage, strength, and responsibility to act in compliance with our Constitution and our laws.

There is another way out. That is, the Supreme Council may change the Constitution. But this is , first, a difficult route to follow and second it again leads to confrontation. Imagine that the Supreme Council and the president were elected by the nation. Then one branch of authority could not forcibly dictate its will upon another. It cannot, if it wants to become a civilized, law-governed body. This is why I underline—support—those deputies and the stand of those who believe that the most important thing is the result. The result is early elections. The result is a referendum on the president held during the elections on the basis of the Constitution and a subsequent decision on the election of a new president. There is yet a third way out, to which some deputies often refer. It envisages that the branches of power voluntarily lay down their plenary powers, although they only talk about the president. Those who wanted to do this have already done so, but they all believe that it is they who are the most ardent protectors of the people, and it is they who meet the people's interests, and all others do not. The people have been misled. How? They imposed a stereotypical opinion with the help of the media—local and other countries included—that the president was carrying out some nationalist policy. I ask myself: Who can say where the signs of this nationalist policy are? I have already been thinking about this, I have been asking my colleagues. If the president favors the building of the state, well, I do not know that the desire to build a state can be called nationalism anywhere in the world, more so from the very start and now. I was always saying that I favor the building of a civic state in which all people, regardless of their nationality, are equal before law, before God as they say, and the land, and bear responsibility for the state and the land and this is the real state of affairs.

Take, for example, the present composition of the government. Except for Pynzenyk, the entire government's composition—I have especially in mind the presidium, the prime minister, and deputy prime ministers—they all come from the eastern regions. Well, what? Where? Who? Or can we say that there are only Ukrainians in the government or the Supreme Council? No one even determined this, the patriotism, but the position taken and a person's work were considered. They say a different flag was adopted here in Ukraine and this is the sign of nationalism. But this is ridiculous. This is not serious talk.

Where will you find a state that is called...[changes thought] Imagine it occurred to someone in Great Britain or France to submit for referendum an issue on deciding the state language and how many state languages are required. Well, I cannot even comprehend that this could occur to anyone. They then tell us: Let us hold a referendum to determine how many state languages we need. In other words, everything is turned into an absurdity. Besides, this is presented as the people's will. There is an interesting formula obtained through extensive practice: First, talk for lengthy periods about the importance, importance, importance, then appeal to people through a sociological poll, and then say that the people want this. Now, there is one more danger, I want you to know it. What will your attitude be toward it? Yesterday I felt this especially vividly. Its essence is as follows: The same law on the referendum does not envisage local referendums on such important political issues as, say, the political system, the issue on where to be, where to go, what to build, and so on. This is the issue of the all-Ukrainian referendum. Yesterday one of the deputies, it seems to me, from Lugansk Oblast, spoke about this. He said that since this was not envisaged we held an all-round sociological poll. Answering the question whether we were correct in seceding from the union, approximately 80 percent replied that this was a historic mistake. It is clear that historic mistakes should be corrected. So, I am deeply convinced that as soon as the referendum is announced, local bodies of power, taking advantage of people's sentiments and complicated situations, will submit these issues as well. Then it will start all over again: In the east they will say they are in favor of the union and in the west they are against it. What happens next? A conflict. Who will gain the upper hand?

From here, I would like to discuss a very important issue that continually causes insinuations against me. It is that of economic union. They say the president is against economic union.

I wish to tell you straight from this podium that I was never against economic union with Russia, Belarus, and other states of the former Soviet Union. I know that the economic situation today is such that we can only survive by using the market, the resources, and the possibilities of the whole region. Frankly speaking, we are not ready for all aspects of the market that we would like to be, and nobody is really waiting for us there either; that is, no one invites anyone, and one has to fight one's way there. This is done with high quality, cheap products and relevant infrastructures. That is why my position is this: The economic community, or union—whatever you may call it—should exist, but the document that has been prepared must protect the interests of each state: Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, and others. This is so we will not find ourselves in a difficult situation again.

I put a concrete question to many leaders and people: Tell me please, it is difficult here today, it is more difficult than elsewhere—this comparison is fairly conventional though one can agree with some of it; there are explanations, but I do not have the time to explain—but will oil become cheaper for us after we enter the economic union tomorrow? I get the answer: No. Gas? No. Will there be the same prices as before? Of course not, because Russia and everyone else is moving toward the market, and the market means payment according to expenditure.

We are being told that we cannot live because of world prices. But every country of the world lives at world prices. Everyone without exception. No one sells anything to anyone at prices below world prices, except for certain agreements. We, however, cannot do it. In order to live at world prices, there must be world level expenditure. Once again, there is no other way. It is not found in nature.

Well, shall we restore it? Some people think that it is possible to restore the former USSR, with its centralized system, with its plan indexes, and everything else, and make everything fall into place again. All this after what has already taken place in other states, not only in Ukraine. Why live in a dream world? Why fool the people? The people should be told the truth about the situation, that we can live and work only on condition that we adjust to world prices, that the state help to create appropriate conditions and ensure normal relations without confrontation and pressure on Ukraine or other states.

Thus, my position is this. I am not against, but I am in favor of economic integration, in any shape or form. I can only question some of the provisions, and there are many such provisions in the draft treaty. I do not think I am alone in this because Ukraine came out with respective warnings—guided by a resolution of the Supreme Council—when heads of government were instructed to work out a draft document. We must act accordingly. But to say today that the president is against the union is not true. This is insinuation.

I am against specific provisions in the document that can put Ukraine in dire straits. I am against the dream that is being imposed on people, that life would become easier afterwards. There is only one thing that can happen and this is that mechanisms will be worked out, as well as borders, customs, and so on and so forth. But this will not be given away to anyone for cheaper products or for nothing. We have to get accustomed to living within our means and manufacturing competitive goods.

Any president—if this one is not to one's liking there will be another—will not change anything. Laws of nature cannot be bypassed. No one is capable of doing this.

Now, once again concerning the government, if there is confrontation of some kind or another, I would like to express my position. The government led by Prime Minister Leonid Kuchma did not lead Ukraine into the crisis; it was already there by the time he came to power. However, this government has not led Ukraine out of the crisis. On the contrary, the crisis is even deeper. In other words, this government and prime minister cannot be accused of leading Ukraine into the crisis. This is unjust and one cannot establish injustice in relations between the president, prime minister, and chairman of the Supreme Council.

Is it only the prime minister, his deputies, and others that are implicated in this crisis? There are objective and subjective reasons. The government has not managed to extend reforms on a large scale, or to make use of its plenary powers to ensure the course toward wider reforms. The government has not managed either in economic, financial, or other spheres of activity.

However, there were gaps conducive to that, both in our laws that did not offer any opportunity for a wide growth in work, and there were, and are, shortcomings in the work of the president and his administration in the sense that we have not made use of opportunities either. Local bodies of power are also to blame to a large extent, such as those in the regions, areas, cities and towns, and their leaders. Managers of enterprises are also much to blame as many examples can be cited today of people able and others unable to work under the same conditions. This is also true and you are aware of these examples. Thus, everything has to be fair.

Now, whose fault is greater? Everyone is to blame. The Supreme Council and the president are responsible for policy and its course. The government is responsible for policy implementation but cannot claim the right to policymaking. If it was, it would not be known who is responsible for what. Because it had the right to issue decrees for half a year, it took the responsibility for policymaking.

Thus, we have done what is now clear to everyone. That is to say, one cannot do this, and I would like to stress that there has to be justice in relation to everyone and everyone's guilt has to be defined expressly, rather than loosely. This is my position on a referendum, on agreements, and on the government.

Now, straight to our meeting. I think the fault to a certain degree is that the trade unions' capabilities have not been utilized. I do not think that you will deny it and say you are not at all to blame. I have heard speeches here and understand that you well realize this.

The idea of social partnership was not bad, it was not bad. However, it not only needs to be declared but also carried out. The council, that is the Council of Social Partnership formed on the initiative of trade unions, has little influenced events so far. Once again there are organizational problems and simply those of difficulties in our life. Had Ukraine been an exception in terms of difficulties, one could have put everything down to Ukraine alone. History, however, attests to the fact that all states have difficulties during transition from one system to another, as does our state to a greater extent, with high energy consumption sectors of industry, very heavy industry, concentrated there. We have even more difficulties.

The problem for these structures, including bodies to ensure social partnership, is how to start work. Let us together think how this can be done. It was said here that I should be an arbitrator between the trade unions and the government. To be an arbitrator, you know, is not a simple matter. It is not a simple matter. One should always side with someone. To take a position of siding with the trade unions requires only specific calculations and possibilities. Like you, I do not want to find people in an appalling material state, which especially—[excitement heard in the audience; Kravchuk responds to calls] they have already found themselves in it—especially applies to those who require immediate social support and protection. I am in favor of it just like you.

But who has got to do this? One can specifically demand something direct from the government. That you are making these demands is just. But the government is controlled by its possibilities. What shall it do next? The government will say: We have no such possibilities. Take a seat instead of us and do it.

That is to say, I would like to demonstrate that everyone is absolutely right for their position. You have your function and your duty to perform. From the viewpoint of your functions and duties, you demand that what is considered proper to protect the working people should be done. However, one should base oneself on realistic possibilities; I would like to say openly that the government does not now have such possibilities.

But let us wait. Today, a report on social protection was to be discussed. I think the Supreme Council will make corrections, and it even seems that Tuesday, as far as I can remember—although, as was rearranged, it is in 10 days—was appointed for a session to discuss the government program to overcome the economic crisis. That is to say, let us not discuss this issue here today. I mean we can discuss it, but let us still hear the government and hear its program. It has been elaborated for a very long time. A group of experts have sat, including directors of large enterprises, consultants, deputy prime ministers, and ministers who have elaborated this program. To what extent it will satisfy our people, and our state and whether it has made use of all of Ukraine's possibilities will become clear once we have listened to it and read it. I am in favor of approaching every problem in a specific manner and, once settled, working from realistic possibilities.

It is absolutely clear to us that reforms under way have both negative and positive consequences and we must take this into consideration. Reforms carried out that have only positive consequences have not yet been experienced by anyone in the whole world. One should learn to defeat negative consequences and look for ways of overcoming them. Once again, nothing else can be suggested.

Finally, the last issue that has been asked just about everywhere lately is: What are we building and where are we going? This is asked everywhere I speak. This question is already at the session. I am asked: Let us first say what we are building. It is clear that when someone is speaking on this issue, the question (?implied) is as follows: First, is it socialism or capitalism? Second, what state are we building: Parliamentary, presidential or mixed? What is the form of power and how is it formed: By the people or by appointment?

So let me start with the latter. I am in favor of power, both representative and executive, formed by the people for this issue to be removed from the agenda. At local elections I am also in favor of representative bodies and the head of executive power being elected by the people. Then the issue of who is appointing who, and whether he takes the side of Bolsheviks, Mensheviks, or someone else will be settled. Who will be elected by the people? However, there has to be a mechanism for central power, that of the president and the government, to influence the person elected. Otherwise, the situation may once again become uncontrollable, with the person elected saying: I can do what I like, because I was elected by the people and you cannot (?influence me). This is what I am in favor of.

I am in favor of Ukraine being parliamentary and presidential and the government having the power it has, i.e. all executive power, and the president being the head of state, who is immediately involved in forming the government and has the respective right—if the parliament has the right to impeach the president—the respective right of the president, if elected by the people, to dissolve the parliament. In other words, action and counteraction, and equal opportunities. Then it will not be a case of treating the president with respect or disrespect, or the president treating the Supreme Council with respect or disrespect. Everything will fall into place.

I am in favor of us building a state with a social nature, or a state with all forms of ownership being equal, the people socially protected and enjoying all rights and freedoms, emphasizing all equal forms of ownership. We

have to include in the arsenal of our possibilities all the real strengths we have: Both land and construction and our industrial and agricultural structure, i.e. everything which can be included for Ukraine to grow rich and for investment to find its way there.

However, the question of capitalism or socialism belongs in the field of philosophical discussion. It does not yield any specific results because no one has yet had any pure socialism or pure capitalism. What we had was not socialism, as well as what we have now has not become capitalism.

In other words, everything, i.e. our possibilities, our resources, and our practical actions have to be contemplated in an absolutely specific manner.

Donbass 'Insists' on Referendum on President, Parliament

LD3108102293 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 0314 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Anatoliy Gordeyev]

[Text] Donetsk, 31 Aug (ITAR-TASS)—The inconclusive outcome of the debate at the Supreme Soviet session on whether to hold a nationwide referendum in Ukraine encountered a mixed reaction in Donbass. Representatives of nationalist-oriented parties and movements, notably the Ukrainian Republican Party, the Democratic Party of Ukraine, and the Congress of Ukrainian Nationalists regard the outcome as their interim victory; in the last few months they have spared no effort to prevent the referendum and to deflect criticism from President Leonid Kravchuk.

But it is Donbass, which once voted for Leonid Kravchuk's presidency, that now insists on holding a nationwide referendum on confidence in Kravchuk and in the Supreme Council. It looks as though the possible cancellation of the referendum will give a new impetus to the opposition's political activity. In view of the fact that not only the referendum, but even a legally nonbinding plebiscite remains hanging in the air, a committee has been set up in Donetsk. The committee, called Referendum-93, brings together socialists, the Inter-Movement, christian democrats, Slavonic Unity members, communists, the Ukrainian Civic Congress party, the Movement for Donbass Revival, and others. In the event of parliament finally calling off the referendum, the committee is prepared to gather three million signatures necessary for holding a referendum, in order to call one again.

Belarus

Communications Link With Pentagon Operational 31 Aug

LD3108063993 Moscow Mayak Radio Network in Russian 0530 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] In approximately 30 minutes a direct permanent communications line will start operating between the Ministry of Defense of Belarus and the Pentagon. The American side took full initiative for establishing the link, spending more than $2 million. Military experts assert that the direct line will promote an efficient exchange of information on the progress being made in eliminating the military equipment scheduled for destruction.

U.S. Delegation Discusses Aid for Nuclear Arms Dismantlement

WS3008094893 Minsk VO SLAVU RODINY in Russian 11 Aug 93 p 1

[Report by newspaper correspondent G. Sharaeva: "Land of the Belarusian Nuclear Bases Is Waiting for Improvement"]

[Text] You know that in July Belarusian Defense Minister Pavel Kozlovskiy and United States Secretary of Defense Les Aspin signed three agreements according to which the United States will extend $50 million to Belarus to facilitate the dismantling of the former Soviet nuclear weapons. $25 million of this will be used for the improvement of the lands of the former nuclear bases.

Some days ago, a U.S. delegation headed by a representative of the Nunn-Lugar Fund at the U.S. Department of Defense S. Schless visited Belarus. The delegation discussed the issue of the use of the money for the improvement of lands of the nuclear bases with the Belarusian Defense Ministry representatives. The American side expressed its willingness to train a group of Belarusian experts in the United States or to send U.S. experts to Belarus to organize the training of our officers in Belarus. They proposed organizing a model of the land improvement at one of our nuclear bases. Our side is primarily interested in equipment for land improvement of the Belarusian nuclear bases. In connection with this, the Belarusian side has handed over a list of the required equipment to the U.S. delegation.

U.S. Embassy To Dispense Aid for Stricken Areas

PM3108100993 Moscow ROSSIYSKAYA GAZETA in Russian 21 Aug 93 First Edition p 6

[Untitled news column report under the "Yesterday, Today, Tomorrow" rubric]

[Text] In response to a Belarusian government appeal, the U.S. Embassy in the republic has given the go-ahead for the allocation of 500 million rubles from the Belarusian-U.S. Partnership Fund in material assistance to the inhabitants of Brest and Gomel Oblasts, which suffered the most as a result of the natural disaster in August of this year.

The fund's money comes from humanitarian aid supplied from the United States, and the U.S. Embassy has been authorized by its government to distribute this money independently for the implementation of projects to assist the Belarusian population.

Shushkevich Seeks 'Friendly' Ties With Russia

WS2708133193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0300 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Belarusian Supreme Soviet Chairman Stanislav Shushkevich has given an interview to the Swiss newspaper NEUE ZUERCHER ZEITUNG. Regarding the current relations of Belarus with Russia, he said that irrespective of the development of political events, Belarus favors the development of good friendly relations with the neighboring country and will respect its domestic policy. Speaking on the problems of bilateral cooperation, Stanislav Shushkevich stressed that these difficulties are temporary and are the result of the lengthy deformation of the Belarusian national economy which is characterized by a complete lack of independent energy resources and the complete dependence on Russian orders and deliveries. Therefore, the Belarusian economy is unable to perform clearing operations with its eastern neighbor at world prices. The Republic will be able to overcome this predicament only if Russia, as a successor in the interest of the erstwhile USSR, is more flexible in its price policy and gives Belarus a chance to make the process of the transition of the national economy into the new stage less painful. We can expect this attitude toward Belarus because the Russian leadership's attitude toward the young independent state is characterized by [word indistinct], Sushkevich added.

Division Conducts Command, Headquarters Training

WS2708105493 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 0700 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] The Rogachev Guard's Motorized Rifle Division, named after the Belarusian Supreme Soviet, has carried out the regular command and headquarters training. According to the press center of the Belarusian Defense Ministry, this military training is characterized by an efficient use of material and technical resources. In the past, such training included the transportation of personnel over great distances and at considerable expense. This time, the military was able to perform the planned tasks without leaving their base, using various technical means, upgraded organization, modelled landscape, and maps.

Polish Military Delegation Discusses Cooperation

PM2708132393 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 3

[Valeriy Kovalev report: "Polish Military Delegation Visits Belarus"]

[Text] A Polish military delegation led by Brigade General Tadeusz Komarnicki, head of the Polish Army General Staff Armaments Directorate, has paid a two-day visit to Minsk.

During talks with Major General Mikhail Stankevich, Belarusian deputy defense minister, they examined the prospects for developing military-technical cooperation between the two neighboring states' military departments. They also discussed questions of organizing reciprocal military deliveries and producing spare parts for some types of combat hardware in the Polish Army's arsenal.

Lawmakers Leave for Visit to China

WS2708063193 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 2000 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Today, a group of Belarusian lawmakers left for China. The delegation is headed by Uladzimir Harkun, chairman of the legislative Commission for Agrarian Issues, Foodstuffs, and Village Social Development. The members of the Belarusian delegation will hold talks with Chinese National People's Congress deputies and members of government, and visit a free trade zone.

Diplomatic Relations Established With Syria

LD2708171393 Minsk Radio Minsk Network in Belarusian 1715 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Today in Moscow a ceremony of signing a protocol on establishing diplomatic relations between the Republic of Belarus and the Syrian Arab Republic took place in the embassy of the Republic of Belarus.

Moldova

Snegur Favors 'Speedy Withdrawal' of Russian Troops

LD2708171893 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1112 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau, 27 Aug—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur has spoken in favor of a speedy withdrawal of Russia's 14th Army from Moldova, in an interview published by NEZAVISIMAYA MOLDOVA he pointed out that a final settlement of the situation in the Dniester region is a kind of indicator of the true intentions and plans of the governing circles in Russia as regards the real independence of Moldova.

Mircea Snegur thinks that "the situation is being complicated by an acute confrontation between the pro-superpower conservative and democratic reformist forces in Russia itself, which have different approaches towards practically recognizing the sovereignty of the former 'younger brothers' in the former USSR". Russia's preliminary demands of a political nature which should be carried out prior to the withdrawal of its forces from the territory of Moldova creates a "stalemate" situation, from which there is no way out, the president said.

Calls on Yeltsin To Strengthen Ties

AU3008140893 Kiev HOLOS UKRAYINY in Ukrainian 26 Aug 93 p 5

[Unattributed report published under the rubric "Express Information": "They Experience the Actions by Russian Reactionaries"]

[Text] Moldovan President Snegur sent a letter to Russian President Yeltsin. He raised a number of questions dealing with relations between the two countries. In particular, he cited problems "that emerged as a result of destructive actions by Russian reactionary forces, aimed at undermining the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Moldovan Republic."

Qualifying these actions as interference into the internal affairs of the sovereign state, Snegur called upon Yeltsin to do everything possible to strengthen trust between the two peoples and eliminate artificial barriers that emerge on the road toward new relationships.

Flies to Moscow for Talks

LD3108105593 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1003 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau, 31 Aug—Mircea Snegur, the president of Moldova, flew to Moscow today for a meeting with Boris Yeltsin, the president of Russia. As the ITAR-TASS correspondent learned, the leader of Moldova intends to discuss, among other things, the timescale for the withdrawal of the 14th Russian Army from the republic's territory.

Russia Grants Credit To Help Pay for Fuel

MK2308135093 Moscow NEZAVISIMAYA GAZETA in Russian 27 Aug 93 p 3

[Unattributed report under the "NEGA Reports" rubric: "Moldova"]

[Excerpts] On 1 September Moldova will receive a 14-billion credit from Russia. This was announced on 26 August by the Moldovan Government's press service upon the return of Prime Minister Andrei Sangheli from Moscow. The announcement says that this credit will help Moldova pay Russia for gasoline, natural gas, and fuel oil.

According to Ion Sofroni, the Moldovan Government's press secretary, during the meeting of the two countries' prime ministers an agreement was reached on the delivery of 100,000 tonnes of Russian grain to the Moldovan Republic. [passage omitted]

Meanwhile, Lieutenant General Aleksandr Lebed, commander of the 14th Russian Army, has been nominated as candidate to the Supreme Soviet of the Transdniestrian Moldovan Republic. Your NEGA correspondent was told in Tiraspol that Lebed was nominated by servicemen and their family members living in a military camp of the 14th Army, which is deployed in the Dniester Region. Up to the present day, however, Aleksandr Lebed has been on vacation in Moscow. The Army's staff said that the 14th Army commander is to return to Tiraspol on 26 August.

Government Views Oil Imports From Russia, Romania

AU2608165493 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1842 GMT 24 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 24/8/1993—The prime-minister of the Republic of Moldova, Andrei Sangheli, meets today his counterpart, Viktor Chernomyrdin. They plan to discuss the way of realisation of the interstate agreement. The delegation also comprises: Valentin Cunev, the vice-prime minister; Tudor Slanina, the minister of commerce and material resources; Nicolae Ciornii, the general director of the State Fuel Association and other official persons who represent key-directions for collaboration with the Government from Moscow. According to statisticians, Russia covered during the first half of 1993 only 25 percent of the deliveries foreseen by the state agreement from Chisinau, while Moldova covered approximately 30 per cent of its obligations. Sources near the government, communicated to a BASA-PRESS reporter that the problems of the technical credit promised by Russia and petrol deliveries to Moldova (which are now practically ceased) will be especially treated during this meeting because talks from the last week had not been efficient.

A representative of Romanian embassy in the Republic of Moldova, declared, while being questioned by a BASA-PRESS reporter, that Romania is firmly decided to deliver important amount of petrol, diesel oil, fuel oil and coal for heating apartments to Moldova in the near future. During foregoing days, the first wagon will arrive in Chisinau for technical tests. The cited source underlined that Romania does not export fuel of exports in exchange for hard currency, but deliveries to Moldova constitute "an assistance in hard times for the republic." Anatol Arapu, the prime-vice minister of foreign economic relations, informed a BASA-press reporter that in a meeting with a delegation from Bucharest, they discussed first delivery of 10 thousand tonnes of petrol, 20,000 tonnes of diesel oil and 500 tonnes of lubricants, but, they did not sign any agreements yet, underlined the quoted source. A list of goods that is planned to be delivered to Romania from Moldova was also presented for examination to Romanian party, stressed Arapu. He also clarified that groups of experts are now preparing this transaction, in connection to petrol deliveries from Romania. Gheorghe Hadjiu, a responsible servant at the State Fuel Association declared, in the absence of his superior who left for Moscow for the second time during the last week, that "nothing is clear" for the time being.

Shortage of Gas, Coal Viewed

LD2608152693 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1353 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fedor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau August 26 TASS—Six out of eight units at the Moldovan district power station ground to a standstill due to a lack of coal, the republican press reported on Thursday. Chief engineer of the energy resources department Gennadiy Verin noted that the station did not receive a single ton of coal over the past month.

The prospect for solving the problem facing the Moldovan power industry is dim. The republic has reached a critical point with fuel supplies. Moldova received 70 per cent of fuel, including gas and mazut, from Russia and 30 per cent of other energy carriers (mostly coal) from Ukraine and other regions of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

Moldova will need 1.85 million tons of coal and 750 million cubic meters of gas by the end of this year. They will cost nearly 200 billion roubles. But the national treasury is empty.

The hard financial situation of the industry is aggravated by huge debit indebtedness of consumers—8.5 billion roubles. It increased by 5.7 times since the start of the year. Experts forecast a drop in the generation of electricity and heat energy this year by 34 and 10 per cent, respectively, as against 1990 and a fall in consumption by 28 and 18 per cent.

Republic Celebrates 2d Independence Anniversary

LD2708164193 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1413 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Fyodor Angeli]

[Text] Chisinau August 27 TASS—The Moldovan people is marking today the second anniversary of proclamation of independence.

The festivities began with laying wreaths to the monument to Moldovan Tsar Stefan the Great. The ceremony was attended by Moldovan leaders. A reception in honor of foreign ambassadors accredited in Moldova was held as well.

The republics marks its national holiday under conditions of economic recession, sharp decrease in the population living standards and the on-going political struggle for the integrity of the young state.

Still, it has achieved much over the past two years. Moldova has been recognized by 132 states, it has joined the United Nations, CSCE and other international organizations. Signatures of Moldovan leaders have been put under major international documents. Dozens of specialized international structures, including the International Monetary Fund and the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, are helping the republic in economic reforms.

Moldova is living through fierce political struggle, as three republics have been formed on its territory. A large share of responsibility for their formation is carried by parliament deputies, especially the supporters of the unionist faction, whose irresponsible actions have prompted ambitious leaders of the Moldovan Dniester region and the Moldovan south to create corresponding political structures.

* * *

Extreme forces from the Dniester left and right banks have been acting in unison for two years. But Chisinau ultra-patriots understand as long as the left bank regions are part of Moldova, it will be very difficult to achieve Moldovan unification with Romania.

Snegur Delivers Independence Day Message

AU3108064593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1800 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau, BASAPRESS, 27/8/1993—On the occasion of the Independence Day, President Snegur addressed a message to the Moldovan people by a radio broadcast. An alternative for Moldova's independence is only transforming Moldova into a theater of conflicts between two or more states. "This is why the existence of our independent state in this European zone is a guarantee of stability and peace." The old regime remained in eastern regions and in several southern regions. This regime failed in the rest of the ex-Soviet space. "The 'judgment' staged by some outlawed proves even more the terrorist core of the regime which installed on Dniester's left bank" stated the president. Snegur added that it is absolutely justified for Moldova to rely on the anti-totalitarian solidarity of ex-Soviet republics. This solidarity was noticed in August and December 1991 and in the attempts to exclude the remnants of thirst of revenge of the Tiraspol regime. The state independence was also blocked by the bad quality of the inherited economy and state bodies. Talking on basic changes to be made in Moldova, President Snegur said "the request of order and social protection cannot be seen together with the deny of statality." He added that it would be impossible to solve the crisis if small groups get control over political initiative. These groups, said Snegur, "are interested to crush the basis of the state."

Urges Social Reforms

LD2708155393 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1445 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By MOLDOVA-PRES for TASS]

[Text] Chisinau August 27 TASS—Moldovan President Mircea Snegur made a televised speech on the occasion of the republic's independence day on Friday [27 August].

Snegur admitted that the population's loyalty and confidence in the government had diminished under the pressure of economic instability and political uncertainty.

On the other hand, he urged the nation to join efforts in accomplishing several most significant social reforms.

Snegur singled out the task of building a national economy capable of securing not only political sovereignty but also popular welfare.

To accomplish the task, it is necessary to change economic infrastructure of each industry through stimulating domestic and foreign investments, creating an independent monetary and financial system and reinforcing legislative process at all levels, he said.

A state should serve its citizens, not vice versa, he noted.

"If a state does not protect the rights of its citizens, chaos sets in and violence becomes a means of personal survival," he emphasized.

Plans To Take Part in CIS Summit

LD2708091193 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 0800 GMT 27 Aug 93

[From the "Novosti" newscast]

[Text] Moldovan President Mircea Snegur, speaking on national radio today in connection with the republic's Independence Day, stated that he cannot ignore the decision of the Presidium of the Moldovan parliament that recommended him and the government to take part in the talks on setting up an economic community of independent states. Therefore, he intends to go to Moscow on 7 September for the meeting of the heads of the CIS.

President Mircea Snegur said that it is necessary to proceed from realities and recognize that Moldova's decades-long, close economic links with Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and other republics of the former Union cannot be severed.

Snegur Interviewed on Agriculture, Reforms

LD2708170093 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1420 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Interview with President Mircea Snegur by unidentified correspondent; place and date not given; from the "Today in Moldova" program—live or recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr. President, how would you describe the situation in the republican economy?

[Snegur] It is a very difficult question, but I think I can give a positive answer, to a certain degree, since the results of the first harvest show that we will have, at last, a good year in agriculture and, consequently, in the agro-industrial complex, which accounts for about 55 percent of the republican economy. This is the first thing. Secondly, I think that we have finally made progress in implementing reforms. A privatization program has been approved and we have started to put it into practice. We are about to start a large-scale privatization. All documents have been prepared for introducing a national currency. A special place in a general program for reforms has been given to the social protection of the population.

I would also like to mention that a program for speeding up reforms has been agreed with international organizations such as the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, and it has been agreed, in principle, that if we adhere to the path of these reforms, we will receive support from these organizations.

[Correspondent] Moldova is an agrarian republic, for the most part, the land issue is therefore one of the most painful issues. Could you please say some words about progress of land reform in the republic?

[Snegur] The reform has been practically started, and it is advancing along different paths and by different methods, something which the current legislation permits. Turning the existing state and collective farms into joint-stock companies accounts for the largest percent or volume of the overall measures today. In other words, each employee becomes an owner and receives a document entitling him to a certain quota of land and means of production, that is, of the overall property accumulated by a given economic unit. At the same time, many economic units have opted for a different method. They have distributed land among people, many of them have set up peasant farms on these plots of land, and we fully support this approach. After receiving land, some of them have set up associations of farms on a cooperative basis.

[Correspondent] What ways do you see to solve the sociopolitical situation that has come about?

[Snegur] At the current stage, I would mention two points: The parliamentary crisis that followed after the parliament failed to ratify the Almaty documents on Moldova joining the CIS, and the second and the most difficult, dramatic, and painful issue, which is the fragmented state of our republic, that is, the presence of elements of separatism in the republic. I would like to draw your attention to this point, precisely because everything else is of transitory nature, whereas separatism is having a very negative effect on both economic problems and people's feelings. I would like therefore, to reiterate that this is not the will of the people living, say, in the republic's eastern areas or the will of the Gagauz people, rather, it is the will of certain leaders who have not yet understood that our success lies in unity.

I believe that finally, everything will fall into place, because nowadays we solve all issues peacefully. We would rather prefer things to remain in the balance, if I may say so, than to see a repetition of the events of 1992 when people died. We will gradually advance toward finding concord, and giving a special legal status to the eastern areas on the basis of high degree of self- administration, and the principles of delimiting authority between central and local bodies of power. On these issues, like on all others, I am an optimist because I am confident of the people's support.

Independence Day is a great holiday. On this day I would like people to look back on the road toward independence that we have made. Today we are celebrating the second anniversary. I would like us to look at the causes of today's difficulties, and to analyze deeper the current state of things in order to speed up our progress along the path of reforms, because this will improve our people's living standards. I would like to wish everybody good health, happiness, and peace.

Attempt To Modify Dniester Election System Fails

AU2608192093 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1751 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Tiraspol, ROMPRES, 25/8/1993—Today, with only one vote against the session of the Supreme Soviet from Tiraspol excluded the question concerning introduction some modifications into the legislation concerning elections in the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic. Some experts expressed that the attempt to introduce respective modifications was undertaken in order not to allow General Lebed, the Commander of the 14th Army to be registered as a candidate to deputy corp. Recently, General Lebed was proposed as a candidate for future elections to legislative body of the self-proclaimed Dniester republic from one of the regions of Tiraspol.

Minister Seeks Release of Prisoners in Tiraspol

AU2908174493 Bucharest Radio Romania Network in Romanian 1900 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Nicolae Mircea Nastase report from Chisinau]

[Text] The Tiraspol daily DNIESTROVSKAYA PRAVDA published a report today according to which State Security Minister Vasile Calmoi, acting upon the

orders of President Mircea Snegur, went to Tiraspol on 26 August where he met with the president of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic, Igor Smirnov. Calmoi told him that Moldovan authorities are concerned about the fate of the political prisoners belonging to the so-called Ilie Ilascu group and demand their release.

Moldova's Government is especially worried about the health condition of Andrei Ivantoc and requests that he immediately receive necessary medical assistance.

Igor Smirnov asserted that he cannot interfere with the activity of the court of justice before they reach a verdict. As for Ivantoc's health, the truth had been distorted, Smirnov said. The prisoner's health is normal and he is under medical surveillance. In accordance with President Snegur's request, the daily claims, Ivantoc will be subjected to a new medical test, unless he rejects it.

On the other hand, the wives and relatives of the five Moldovan patriots imprisoned in Tiraspol are continuing the hunger strike that they began eight days ago in front of the headquarters of the Moldovan Government.

CSCE Official Comments on Dniester, Trial

AU3108063793 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1844 GMT 26 Aug 93

[All quotation marks as received]

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 26/8/1993—Today, Timothy Williams, the chief of CSCE mission in Moldova in his interview released for BASA-press agency asked to address Moldovan people with greetings on the occasion of anniversary of independence. He made an appeal to all people and authorities on the both banks of the River Dniester by which he asked them to meditate on the things they have in common: history, families' and economic links. "People on the both sides of the River Dniester want to live in peace. On the right bank of the river majority of people vote for independence of Moldova and this should be understood by the people who live on the left bank," declared Timothy Williams. He expressed that all leaders must double their efforts to expand mutual contacts. "International community including Russia, Ukraine and Romania recognise Moldova as an independent state," declared Williams. "Everything depends on authorities, who must promote a policy which would allow individuals and ethnical groups live in peace."

While dwelling upon the trial, Williams stressed the interest of the European Community with regard to this case, so that it could show the state of things concerning human rights respect, as evidence for this being an ordinary observers' presence. "The CSCE addressed to authorities from Dniester a message, by which it consciously stated that the case was opened, but it disputes the legality of the court, the nature of judicial proceedings and the treatment of the prisoners." The message ends up by recommending a transfer detainees to a recognised court of the Republic of Moldova, pointed out Ambassador Williams. "This appeal which was reiterated many times, had been issued to many international bodies, including, for example, the president of the Council of Europe." The president of Moldova has gone to great length to support these appeals. Mircea Snegur visited Moscow, Tiraspol, raised the issue on many occasions and made many concessions in order to save detainees. Now, the responsibility is totally on Tiraspol authorities account," stated Timothy Williams. He expressed his hope that Moldova can become an example of people cooperation for the rest of the world, in case conciliation processes— especially in the case of Ilascu's trial—are perpetuated.

Smirnov on Chisinau's Ties to CIS, Romania

AU3108063593 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1800 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow, BASAPRESS, 26/8/1993—"We did not especially want to receive international recognition on account of that the formal aspect does not interest us very much. We consider to be much more important a de-facto recognition, through a bilateral relations development in the production, finance and culture area with countries that are bordering us, and in first place those from the CIS", declared Igor Smirnov, the president of the self- proclaimed Dniester Republic in an interview published in the newspaper MEGAPOLIS EXPRESS (the 25th August), who had been solicited by the Moscow newspaper on occasion of the third anniversary of the unrecognized state formation from the eastern part of Moldova. While being questioned about the existence of a contradiction between his orientation towards an international recognition of the self-proclaimed Dniester Republic from one perspective, and his own declaration, according to which Dniester authorities would accept to maintain the integrity of the Republic of Moldova on confederative basis, from another perspective, Smirnov answered negative, by declaring that Tiraspol would be ready to delegate to central bodies function that are concerned with foreign economic relations, sure, in case the project of federalizing Moldova is accepted.

While commenting on "Chisinau Parliament refusal to ratify the agreement of the CIS Constitution", Smirnov declared that "from an economic perspective, the most foolish thing had been committed". The Tiraspol dignitary clarified that from now, all countries from the CIS will treat Moldova as a foreign country and will unleash a price policy directly derived from such an attitude." Present negativistic position of Moldova towards the CIS cannot contribute to improving our relations with Chisinau", clarified Smirnov.

The leader of the self-proclaimed Moldovan Dniester Republic doubted peaceful aspirations of Chisinau authorities by declaring that Moldova, despite a decision

adopted by its legislative body regarding republic's transformation into a demilitarized zone, is now consolidating its army forces." Even if there is not a tank in Moldova at present moment of time, there can appear enough tanks tomorrow. Under circumstances when Chisinau has as support such an ally as Romania, this matter undoubtedly arises. Moreover, teams operating tanks are now being prepared in military schools from Romania for the Moldova Army", declared Smirnov. According to his opinion, the collaboration of authorities under the subordination of Tiraspol and Chisinau in Tighina (Bender) is inevitable in connection with preventing new bloodshed. "In future, the problem of Bender has to be resolved in a political way, taking into account the will of the population from this city whose absolute majority pronounced itself for entering into the Dniester Republic", declared Igor Smirnov.

Alleged Rutskoy Involvement in Dniester Agreement

AU3008203593 Bucharest ROMANIA LIBERA in Romanian 25 Aug 93 p 3

[Mihai Vicol article: "Moscow's Man at President Snegur's Side"]

[Text] A year has passed since the military confrontation on the banks of the Dniester River ended. The results of the confrontations are known: Casualties were suffered on both sides, material loss amounted to billions of rubles, territorial split, the loss of Tighina. What about the guilty parties? There are many. A lesser known one of them is a person in the shadows called Boris Bierstein, a Soviet emigre of Jewish origin, who emigrated from Riga [Latvia] to Canada. He became an intermediary between the financial circles of the West and the CPSU Central Committee, especially with the head of the Kruchina Financial Department (the one who committed suicide following the failed coup of August 1991). Bierstein mediated the sale of certain gold mines in Kyrgyzstan to the West. Some of the CPSU money was laundered with the assistance of such intermediaries.

In the same way he penetrated Kyrgyzstan, he found it appropriate to also penetrate President Snegur's circle. The first corrupt person in Snegur's family was his son-in-law, Arthur Gherman, whom Bierstein appointed administrative manager of the Seabeko Hotel Complex. The Snegur family rewarded Bierstein by appointing him to the office of top counselor on economic issues.

One of his most successful palace coups was to secretly bring Rutskoy, vice president of the Russian Federation, to Chisinau, on the eve of the peace negotiations with Boris Yeltsin. It is known that Rutskoy, at the head of a delegation of Russian deputies and counselors, landed in Tiraspol, in the heat of the war, urging the Dniester mercenaries to defend the borders of the old totalitarian empire. In an Ostankino Television interview by journalist Karaulov, Rutskoy gave a favorable picture of Bierstein, calling him "an amiable and loyal person." That was to be expected, then Rutskoy passed him on to Mircea Snegur.

Rutskoy's arrival was kept a complete secret. Not even the minister of interior nor the minister of national security knew about that visit. However, Tiraspol circles knew everything about Rutskoy landing at the military airport of the Dniester Capital and was going to meet with Snegur.

The conciliation process took place only after that visit. Were General Lebed's threats part of Rutskoy's pacifist arguments? Did Boris Yeltsin approve Rutskoy's secret visit to Chisinau? This is another enigma.

Did the Chisinau Government know about the ultra secret negotiations between Mircea Snegur and Rutskoy and about Rutskoy's mission? The latest scandal to ruffle Russian public opinion was that Bierstein's friend, Dimitriy Yakubovskiy, also a Canadian citizen, was Rutskoy's confidant.

In his operations, he was working with the hard currency account and the budget of the VOZROYDENIE (Revival) company, whose president is the also Rutskoy.

Today, V. Yakubovskiy is called to the court to be a witness of the prosecution in the trial against Barannikov, minister of security of the Russian Federation, who has been demoted, and for whose wife Yakubovskiy was purchasing luxury clothes. P. Lucinschi [chairman of the Parliament of the Republic of Moldova], who was a member of Gorbachev's Politburo, is also familiar with the affairs of the VOZROYDENIE company. It is rumored that Petru Lucinschi is one of the richest persons in Bessarabia. How clean are his affairs?

Gagauz Leader Asks Tiraspol for Military Assistance

AU3008175993 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1854 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 28/8/1993— Well-informed sources communicated to a BASA-press reporter that Stepan Topal, the president of the self-proclaimed Gagauzian Republic, is now in a non-official visit in Tiraspol. Topal met the president of the self-proclaimed Moldovan Dniester Republic, Igor Smirnov and the minister of defence from the Tiraspol government, Stanislav Khazheyev. The main goal of Comrat dignitary visit is to obtain a military assistance expressed in arms and military machines for the National Gagauzian Guard.

Gagauz Vice President Assesses Ties With Tiraspol

AU2608192293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1751 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Comrat, BASAPRESS, 25/8/1993—The Gagauzian government applies all possible efforts to exclude negative influence of the fact that the Moldovan Parliament didn't approved CIS agreement upon relations between Comrat and Russia as well as with the other republics of the former USSR, declared Andrei Buiukli, the vice-president of the self-proclaimed Gagauzian republic. "We are the permanent participants of economic relations with all states and are indifferent to political orientation or ideological infrastructure of those states," added the quoted source, underscoring that the flat refusal of Moldova to have any commerce with Russia and the other republics of the former USSR will lead to hard economic crisis. Buiukli repeated that the Gagauzian republic remains loyal towards the principles of collaboration with Dniester which were declared in 1991-1992 and next week they are going to sign an agreement concerning development of economic relations. At present Tiraspol and Comrat are elaborating a plan for further economic collaboration in 1994.

Creanga, U.S. Military Attache Discuss 14th Army Withdrawal

AU3008185293 Chisinau BASAPRESS in English 1844 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Chisinau BASAPRESS, 26/8/1993—The United States military attache in Moscow, Colonel Paul Nelson, had today a meeting with the minister of defence of the Republic of Moldova, Division General, Pavel Creanga. During this discussion, the General Creanga informed the guest about the political-military situation from the republic and especially stressed perspective problems connected with formation of National Army Forces. In connection to the Defence Ministry activity, General Creanga raise the problems of staff preparation. He reminded with this occasion that there exist an agreement with representatives of the NATO concerning preparation of officers and sub-officers abroad. General Creanga, informed Colonel Paul Nelson about the progress of talks with Russia concerning the withdrawal of the 14th Army from the territory of republic. The United States military attache promised to contribute to a most quick resolution of this problem. The ambassador of the United States in Moldova, Mary Pendleton (participated in the talks?).

Armenia

Yerevan Updates Situation in Karabakh, Border Regions

NC3008173993 Yerevan Radio Yerevan International Service in Armenian 1530 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] A large Azerbaijani Army detachment supported by artillery and tanks tried to breach the Nagorno-Karabakh defensive positions south of the Lachin humanitarian corridor on 29 August.

The Karabakh forces repulsed the enemy's attack today and forced it to retreat to its former positions.

The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Defense Army headquarters reported that, contrary to disinformation disseminated by the Azerbaijani sources on the alleged movement of Armenian forces toward the Iranian border, the situation remains relatively calm to the south and southeast of the NKR, as well as along the Iranian border.

The situation on Armenia's borders:

The reports disseminated by Azerbaijani sources on alleged shelling of Azerbaijan's Kubatlinsky and Zangelanskiy Rayons also do not conform to reality. The Armenian Defense Ministry press service reported that an Azerbaijani armed formation in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic raided Armenia's Kapanskiy Rayon and abducted two persons near Kadzharan yesterday evening. The whereabouts of the abducted people is as yet unknown.

According to the press service, no serious incidents have been reported on the Armenian-Azerbaijani borders since last night. However, concentration of troops and military hardware is being observed along the borders of Krasnoselskiy Rayon.

Karabakh Leader Urges UN To Send Representatives

NC3008190393 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1347 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 28 Aug (ARMENPRES)—Acting Chairman of the Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Supreme Soviet Karen Baburyan sent a letter to UN Secretary General Butrus-Ghali in which he expressed regret that all requests for the dispatch of special UN representatives to Nagorno-Karabakh have so far remained unanswered. Had the UN Security Council resolutions been adopted on the basis of information and views from UN representatives deployed on both sides, it would have prevented the current nonobjective and prejudicial assessment of the events taking place in the region.

In Baburyan's view, this is the reason why the world has remained uninformed about the suffering of the NKR population, which every day is subjected to rocket and artillery shelling and air raids, and is suffocating in the grip of the blockade.

Baburyan wrote: We are ready to submit proof of Azerbaijani violations of UN Security Council resolutions. These violations go unpunished. Yet, every retaliatory operation by the NKR Defense Army is severely condemned by the UN without its taking into account the cause and effect relationship.

Baburyan then drew the UN secretary general's attention to Azerbaijani leader Geydar Aliyev's 23 August radio and television address to the nation in which he unequivocally confessed that an Azerbaijani armed formation not loyal to the Azerbaijani Army Command is violating the cease-fire agreement and that the Army subunits and the residents left Fizuli at the instructions of the local leaders pursuing provocative goals. Aliyev also confessed that similar provocative actions have also been plotted in Dzhebrail.

This, in Baburyan's opinion, is essentially a refutation of the reports on the NKR Defense Army's attacks on the aforementioned settlements. The presence of the UN Secretary-General's representative would have been helpful to convince the UN Security Council that such claims are unfounded and to enable it to pass an impartial judgment on the developments in the region.

Reiterating the NKR leadership's adherence to the peaceful resolution to the armed conflict, Karen Baburyan appealed to [garbled words] to support the contacts that have started between the two warring sides, that is, between the NKR and Azerbaijan.

Karabakh Calls For Cease-Fire, Settlement of Refugee Problem

NC3108103493 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The Nagorno-Karabakh Republic [NKR] Government released a statement today, which says:

In recent days, Baku has launched a blatant propaganda campaign through the mass media in connection with the mass abandonment of Azerbaijan's southeast rayons near Nagorno-Karabakh by its inhabitants. This is connected with the intensification of the military operations there and with the aggravation of the domestic political situation in Azerbaijan.

The NKR Government declares that the Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army had no plans and launched no offensive operations in these rayons. The latest five-day cease-fire concluded between the Azerbaijani Republic and the NKR was violated by the Azerbaijani armed formations, something that is not being denied by that republic's authorities, who ascribe it to the lack of a unified command and to internal dissension.

The NKR Government regrets that the intensification of the military operations provoked by the Azerbaijani

Army units has found the refugees fleeing the danger zone in Azerbaijan's southeast rayons and stresses that all the attacks of the Nagorno-Karabakh Defense Army are exclusively retaliation against the enemy.

More than anyone, the NKR people and leadership understand and feel the problem of the refugees. For over a year, the refugees from the NKR's Shaumyanovskiy Rayon and from part of Mardakertskiy Rayon, which were occupied by the [words indistinct] Azerbaijani Army, have been living under extremely dire conditions and are deprived of every assistance. They now constitute over 20 percent of the Karabakh population.

The weight of the refugees upon the blockaded NKR is far heavier than on Azerbaijan. After all, a mere 5 percent of the Republic [Azerbaijan] live in combat regions around Nagorno-Karabakh.

Considering the vital importance of the refugee problem for the two conflicting sides, we are expressing our readiness to start talks immediately on the entire complex of problems relating to their return and, above all, on a long-term cease-fire in the regions they inhabit.

President, Russian Commander Discuss Border Security

NC3108061493 Yerevan Armenia's Radio First Program Network in Armenian 1950 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan received Colonel General Andrey Nikolayev, the commander of the Russian Federation border troops, on 30 August.

They examined issues relating to the joint defense of the Armenian Republic's border and noted in particular that in addition to the joint control of the borders, the Russian border guards are equipping [word indistinct] the military units and training the relevant military cadres.

It was stressed that the Armenian Republic's border is a component part of the CIS border, so its inviolability is guaranteed by the CIS' Collective Security Agreement and by the interstate agreements signed between Armenia and Russia.

Several concrete measures to strengthen the defenses of the Armenian border were formulated.

Attending the meeting, which was held in an interesting and sincere atmosphere, were the following: Armenian State Minister Vazgen Sargisyan; Armenian Defense Minister Serzh Sargisyan; Norat Ter-Grigoryan, the chief of the General Staff of the Armenian Republic; Eduard Simonyants, the chief of the State Directorate for Armenian National Security; Armenian Military Commissar Levon Stepanyan; Viktor (Kuzuntsov), the commander of the Transcaucasian Border Troops; Aleksandr Babenko, the commander of the Russian Border Troops in Armenia; and other officials.

More Armenians To Serve in Border Troops

LD3008194293 Moscow Ostankino Television First Channel Network in Russian 1700 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Report by correspondent Vladimir Nazaryan from Yerevan; from the "Novosti" newscast; Nikolayev's remarks are recorded]

[Text] [Nazaryan] The Araks River along the border, full even at the end of summer. It is here, along the river channel, that the Armenian state border runs, with Iran to the south and Turkey to the southeast. As an integral part of the border of the CIS, it is, as before, guarded by Russian border guards.

[A.I. Nikolayev, Russian Federation Border Troops commander] This is a working visit for the purpose of familiarization.

[Nazaryan] Today a delegation of top officials from the border troops of the Russian Federation, headed by Commander Colonel General Nikolayev, was received by Armenian President Levon Ter- Petrosyan. The tasks of jointly guarding the state border of Armenia and ensuring guarantees of its inviolability were discussed during the conversation.

[Nikolayev] The leadership of Armenia is highly attentive to all the problems and, in spite of the difficulties in Armenia under the present circumstances, the Armenian leadership is doing its utmost and taking all the necessary measures to ensure that the border troops of the Russian Federation are provided with everything they need. A decision has been made to send additional Armenian citizens to serve in the border troops of the Russian Federation. I think this is a very good thing both for the Republic of Armenia and for the Russian Federation. Our citizens should jointly guard the borders of Russia and Armenia.

Gas Agreement With Turkmenistan Detailed

NC2708133193 Yerevan ARMENPRES International Service in Armenian 1328 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Yerevan, 25 Aug (ARMENPRES)—The presidents of Armenia and Turkmenistan signed a treaty of friendship and cooperation in Turkmenistan's capital Ashgabat yesterday.

The signing ceremony was preceded by a nearly three-hour private meeting between the presidents.

Armenian Prime Minister Grant Bagratyan and Turkmenistan's Deputy Prime Minister Rejep Saparov signed a trade and economic agreement for 1994.

Other agreements were also signed, including one on noncommercial payments and the supply of Turkmen gas to Armenia.

A communique on the visit was also adopted.

In a news conference following the signing of the interstate agreement, Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosyan said: Both Armenia and Turkmenistan proved they are reliable partners; they owe each other nothing, a rare thing in our time; and the existing difficulties are connected with other countries.

Turkmenistan President Saparmurad Niyazov said no other country should hamper the economic cooperation between Turkmenistan and Armenia; any country hampering these ties, particularly the supply of gas, must be penalized according to international law.

Turkmenistan will supply Armenia with 15-16 thousand tons of oil and 100 thousand tons of diesel fuel to meet this winter's needs.

Armenia promised to pay for them in a timely manner and at international prices.

According to the signed agreement, from 15 September, 8.5 million cubic meters of Turkmen gas a day will be supplied to Armenia. It should rise to 10.5 million cubic meters from November 1. But, according to Roland Adonts, director of the state enterprise "Haygazart" [Armenian gas enterprise], there are technical problems outside Armenia, which are mostly connected with the pumping stations, on how to achieve that level.

Each 1 thousand cubic meters of gas will cost $80, which is close to international prices. Until the end of the year, payment will be made on a clearing basis.

In exchange for the gas, Armenia is supplying Turkmenistan with machine-building, electrotechnical, chemical, and construction materials.

Health Minister Signs Cooperation Treaty With China

LD2908131793 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1000 GMT 29 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Summary] In Yerevan, the health ministers of Armenia and the People's Republic of China have concluded a treaty on cooperation. Doctors from the two countries will cooperate in exchanging progressive treatment methods for diseases of the cardiovascular and gastrointestinal systems, and in developing new medicines and pharmacological substances.

Number of Registered 'Mass Media Outlets' Grows

LD2908191093 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1805 GMT 29 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Tigran Liloyan]

[Text] Yerevan August 29 TASS—The number of legally registered mass media outlets in Armenia will soon reach 300, according to the Armenian Ministry of Justice. As of the end of August, their number amounted to 293: 262 newspapers and magazines, 13 news agencies, 14 tv and 4 radio programmes.

However, due to the shortage of newsprint and its high price as well as other financial difficulties only 60 percent of the registered mass media function regularly.

At the same time the Armenian Ministry of Justice detected and fined 46 mass media organs which operated without any legal permission.

Azerbaijan

Education Minister, Deputy Minister Dismissed

NC2708210093 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] With a decree of the chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet, who is also executing the powers of the Azerbaijani president, Tofik Ismailoglu Gadzhiyev has been relieved of his post of Azerbaijan's enlightenment [education] minister, and Mahire Kamber-kizi Seredzheva of her post of first deputy enlightenment minister.

Aliyev Appoints New Rayon Officials

NC2808095893 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 26 Aug 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet and National Assembly, has decreed that Rafael Medzhid ogly Medzhidov be appointed head of the Zagataly Rayon Executive Authority and Ubadullah Shaban ogly Kurbanov be removed from that post and Faik M. Bakhshaliyev be appointed head of the Agdash Rayon Executive Authority and Shahmad Askerova be removed from that post.

Other Rayon Officials Named

NC2608152693 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet and National Assembly, has decreed that Tofik Sahib ogly Bagirov be appointed head of the Dzhalalabad Rayon Executive Authority; Mamed Asker ogly Mamedov head of the Tauzskiy Rayon Executive Authority; and Ibragim Orudzh ogly Kuliyev head of the Astara Rayon Executive Authority.

Aliyev, U.S. Ambassador Discuss Peace Process

NC2808131793 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1242 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 28.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—The USA wishes peace settlement within the framework of CSCE Mr Richard Miles the U.S. ambassador told at the meeting with acting President Chairman of Supreme

Soviet of Azerbaijan [illegible]dar Aliyev we are not against Mr Kozyrev's prop[illegible] on meeting with Azerbaijani leadership with representatives of Karabakh. We consider it as responsible step, ambassador emphasized. Geydar Aliyev told ambassador that about the situation in the battles zone, and measures, taken by him for peace settlement of the conflict. He also told about the forthcoming referendum. Mr Richard Miles emphasized that both Armenia and Azerbaijan and Armenians of Karabakh agreed for monitors arrival in the battles zones at the CSCE Minsk group meetings. Mr Miles noticed that the U.S. won't send their monitors. And they are not against Russian monitors arrival.

Nakhichevan Television Transmissions Resume

NC2808095393 Baku Azerbaycan Radio Televiziyasi Television Network in Azeri 1600 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Excerpts] According to information received from the official representatives of Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic, today the people of Nakhichevan were deprived of watching television programs. Our correspondent [name indistinct] asked Vagif Musayev, head of the radio broadcasting department at the Communications Ministry, to clarify this issue.

[Begin Musayev recording] A group of armed terrorists attacked the (Buzlakh) television station in Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic last night at around 0300. They beat up the workers there and damaged the television transmitters, removing parts from them to prevent transmissions from the station. [passage indistinct]. Our department has taken measures to resume transmissions quickly. [passage omitted] [end recording]

According to a report just in, following intensive effort and work carried out by the employees of the republic's Communications Ministry, the equipment at the Nakhichevan station has been restored and the people of Nakhichevan are now able to follow the broadcasts of the republic's television.

Nakhichevan Rally Warns People's Front, Supports Aliyev

NC3108061393 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 30 Aug 93

["Text" of resolution adopted by participants in a rally in Azadlyg Square in Nakhichevan on 30 August; read by announcer]

[Text] Tension has been created in the Nakhichevan Autonomous Republic [NAR]. The remnants of the former administration have created a threat to our national statehood, but the old administration, which does not want to concede defeat, and other forces that wish to come to power are trying to create artificial tension, gradually strengthen their armed confrontation, and drag the people into a fratricidal war. The illegal armed groups established by the old administration have organized activities to threaten people. A group of criminals carrying automatic firearms attacked the house of Isayev Mamed Mamed-Dzhan ogly in [name indistinct] in Sharurskiy Rayon at 0400 on 29 August. The armed group fired on and wounded Isayev and six members of his family.

Shahmerdan Dzhafarov, commander of the NAR Border Guards, Siyavush Mustafayev, deputy minister of foreign affairs, and Sahib Guseynov, head of the Azerbaijani People's Front [APF] armed group in Nakhichevan, are heading the armed groups. The APF armed groups were legalized and included within the framework of the internal troops by Iskender Khamidov, internal affairs minister in the former administration. But the armed bands have not been under the state's control. They have committed several crimes one after the other.

Although former President Abulfaz Elchibey, who is the head of the APF and who fled to Keleki in Ordubadskiy Rayon on 17 June, knows of all the incidents created by the armed groups, he has failed to take measures to obstruct the disgusting activities of the APF and its armed groups. He has used the APF armed groups to pressure the NAR's television network to telecast his statements, which were aimed at provoking the incidents.

Condemning the criminal incidents caused by the APF and its armed groups in the NAR, the meeting participants demand the following:

1. Shahmerdan Dzhafarov, leader of one of the bandit groups who was appointed commander of the border guards from among the APF's ranks, be removed from his position. The APF leaders and the commanding officers of the Azerbaijan border guards be informed of the people's demand. If this is not done, the people will sack Dzhafarov.

2. The Azerbaijani Ministry of Internal Affairs be asked to remove Siyavush Mustafayev from his post. He was appointed by the APF as deputy minister of internal affairs and is the head of the bandit group in Ferhanbeyli.

3. The APF be informed that an all-union rally will be held and a march will be organized against the headquarters of the APF and the border guards if the APF fails to surrender its arms in one week.

4. Abulfaz Elchibey, head of the APF and former president, who knows of all the incidents and who has directly instructed the armed groups, be informed that the people will march on Keleki, demand his expulsion from the NAR, and hold him directly responsible for any incidents that may occur if the acts do not end and the APF's arms are not surrendered.

5. The NAR Ministry of Internal Affairs and Procuracy be asked to investigate the incidents in [placename indistinct] and take resolute measures to penalize the criminals.

6. The meeting participants want to inform Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijan Supreme Soviet and National Assembly, that they approve and support his policy.

Prime Minister Guseynov Gives News Conference

NC2808181793 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1409 GMT 28 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, 28.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—I'm against the negotiations with representatives of Karabakh Armenian because Azerbaijan is at war with Armenia but not Nagorno-Karabakh, Prime-Minister of Azerbaijan Surat Guseynov stated at the press conference today. He said that all the negotiations on the settlement of Armenian-Azerbaijani war which were conducted up to the present time gave no results. Just the contrary the situation is getting worse. According to Surat Guseynov one should rely on our own forces only. He called temporary the defeats in front and he stated that the situation will change in the nearest future. Suret Guseynov expressed his negative attitude to proclamation so called Talish-Mugan Republic. He emphasized that he persuaded Alikram Gumbatov to refuse from his intentions but provocations blocked completion of this process. Expressing his positive attitude to the referendum, Surat Guseynov stated that after it all the parties should freeze their activity. They shouldn't prevent the government from its work.

Denies Rift With Aliyev

NC2808153493 Paris AFP in English 1323 GMT 28 Aug 93

[By Christopher Boian]

[Text] Baku, Aug 28 (AFP)—Azerbaijan's prime minister, Surat Guseynov, dismissed Saturday [28 August] reports of a power struggle between himself and the acting president but called for the creation of a new "defense council" to run the country temporarily.

"I have excellent relations with Aliyev," Guseynov said, referring to Geydar Aliyev, the chairman of the parliament and interim president.

Speaking at a news conference on the eve of a nationwide vote of confidence in fugitive president Abulfaz Elchibey, Guseynov stressed his loyalty to Aliyev and appealed to political groups not to seek to "drive a wedge" between himself and the acting president.

"Let those who would try to create provocations between us get a weapon and go to the front where they belong," Guseynov stated.

His remarks came three days after Aliyev, in a nationally-televised address, strongly suggested he believed Guseynov was behind efforts by a rebel army colonel to forge a new republic in southeast Azerbaijan.

Guseynov, 34, himself led a military rebellion in June that forced Elchibey to flee the capital and paved the way for Aliyev, who was the communist party boss of Azerbaijan for 17 years in the Brezhnev era, to return to power in Baku.

Guseynov described himself as a democrat and said he fully backed Sunday's referendum on Elchibey's leadership, but also said he opposed organization of political parties or holding early general elections amid Azerbaijan's current difficulties.

Instead, Guseynov said, a special "defense council" should be set up as a new executive body following the referendum to help run the country until the conflict with Armenian forces from Nagorno- Karabakh in the west eases or is resolved.

Guseynov was sacked by Elchibey as the commander of Azerbaijani forces last spring following a string of spectacular military defeats that culminated in the capture by Armenian forces of the western region of Kelbadzhar in Azerbaijan.

As a result of subsequent offensives, Armenian forces now occupy roughly 20 percent of Azerbaijan.

At present there are at least three major political fault lines that have fractured the country which are traceable roughly in terms of regional allegiances to Elchibey, Guseynov and Alikram Gumbatov, the rebel colonel concentrated now in the enclave of Nakhichevan along the Turkish border where the president has been living in political exile since June, while Guseynov's backers tend to be concentrated in the western city of Ganja.

Government officials here said Saturday that a siege of the Nakhichevan airport by members of the Popular Front had been broken "by the will of the people" there, and asserted the authorities in Baku were doing all they could to ensure that the referendum was also held in Nakhichevan.

The Popular Front newspaper, Azadlik, on Saturday published a front-page photograph of Elchibey take his oath of office in June 1992 after he became the country's first democratically-elected president.

In an article beside it, Elchibey, who has condemned Sunday's referendum on his leadership, was quoted as saying that his presidency remains "committed to democratic pluralism and freedom of expression."

The Turkish government, which once strongly backed Elchibey but failed to rescue him in June, pressured Aliyev to postpone the referendum and officials here admit they do not know yet what steps they plan to take if, as anticipated, the vote against confidence in Elchibey is high.

Some four million people, including around 700,000 Azeri refugees, are eligible to vote in the referendum.

Iran's Velayati Seeks Help Against Attacks

NC3008201893 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 1307 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Baku 30.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—Foreign Minister of Iran Doctor Velayati appealed to Foreign Minister of Pakistan and the Council of Ministers of ECO [Economic Cooperation Organization]. He expressed his deep concern about activation of Armenian attacks on Azerbaijan as a result of which Azerbaijan lost basic part of its territory says the report received by ASSA-IRADA from Baku representation of Iranian TV broadcast. Doctor Velayati urges ECO member-states to help Azerbaijan and its people by joint efforts. He also proposes to the head of ECO ministers council to send a delegation to Azerbaijan for meeting with the authorities of this country with purpose to search ways to stop aggression and negotiating about urgent assistance.

Iran Allows Women, Children To Cross to Refugee Camps

NC2708184293 Baku TURAN in English 1314 GMT 27 Aug 93

[Text] Baku August 27 (TURAN)—The Azeri refugees continue pushing toward the Iranian border. To the reports of the regional headquarters on refugees, about 20 thousand people have concentrated by the Iranian-Azeri border in Dzhebrailskiy and Fizulinskiy regions.

As a result of the agreement reached by the Iranian and Azeri frontier-guards, the refugees were let to push into the Iranian territory in the vicinity of the Azeri frontier-post of Goradiz and the Iranian frontier-post of Aslanduz, the press-center of the Ministry of National Security of Azerbaijan reported. Only women and children, who are being placed in the refugees camp now, created by the UNO [United Nations Organization], were let to cross the border.

Defense Ministry Reports on Armenian Attacks

NC3008182393 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The Azerbaijan Ministry of Defense Analytical Information Center issued the following communique on 30 August:

The situation in our republic's southwestern border areas is tense. The Armenian Armed Forces, which have fortified their positions in the areas they have occupied in Lachinskiy and Dzhebrailskiy Rayons, launched a two-pronged attack on positions in Kubatlinskiy Rayon this morning. Thanks to the joint effort of our troops, local people, and police workers, the attacks were repulsed.

Several residential areas in Kubatlinskiy Rayon, which are close to Armenia's border, were pounded with artillery guns from that republic today.

The Armenian Armed Forces violated our republic's border once again and attacked Zangelanskiy Rayon yesterday. They tried to advance on [name indistinct] height. However, our troops destroyed many units and forced the enemy to retreat.

Baku Says 5,000 Citizens Held Hostage

NC3008152693 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Namik Abbasov, head of the Azerbaijan State Committee for Prisoners of War, Hostages, and Missing Persons, has said that the Azerbaijan Government has released 29 Armenian hostages without demanding the release of Azerbaijani hostages. He also said that no registered hostage exists in Azerbaijan.

Abbasov said that the 29 Armenians, who were not Azerbaijan citizens, were detained as persons who [words indistinct]. However, a decision was adopted to release and return them. Abbasov also asserted that some 5,000 Azerbaijani citizens are held as hostages in Karabakh and Armenia at the present time. Many of them are in a serious condition. Abbasov said that the question of hostages in Azerbaijan [words indistinct]. He also said that he hoped that his committee will be able to have hundreds of the republic's citizens returned to their homeland in September.

Red Cross Urges Hostage Release

NC2708190493 Baku ASSA-IRADA in English 0947 GMT 27 ug 93

[Text] Baku 27.08.93 (ASSA-IRADA)—A representative of the Red Cross International Committee in Azerbaijan Mr. Andre Pikot said: "We hope that our colleagues in Yerevan will make their contribution so that Armenian side should release Azeri hostages." He said this yesterday, on August 26, during the releasing of 29 Armenian hostages who are not the citizens of Azerbaijan, but who were detained on its territory and kept under the aegis of the Committee for Hostages, POWs and Unaccounted For (all of them are citizens of Armenia, Russia and Georgia). Azerbaijani side adheres to the requirements of Geneva Convention which says that neither of the belligerent sides has the right to take peaceful people hostages, said the Chairman of the State Committee for Hostages, POWs and Unaccounted For Mr. Namik Abbasov in his press-conference in Gobustan isolation ward where the Armenian hostages were kept. The number of Azeri hostages in Armenia is above 4 thousand today. We have the factual proofs of their being physically and morally humiliated, being used for hard work. Unfortunately, all our attempts to release them have been vain, Mr. Abbasov said. Yesterday, the released hostages were sent to Armenia, Russia and Georgia, the Red Cross International Committee being the intermediary.

Aliyev Appeals to Geneva Conference on War Victims

NC3108062193 Baku Radio Baku Network in Azeri 1700 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, acting president and chairman of the Azerbaijani Supreme Soviet and National Assembly, has conveyed an appeal to the participants of the international conference in Geneva on the protection of war victims. The conference will be held from 30 August to 1 September. The appeal said:

Expressing deep gratitude for the promising initiatives you have taken in the work to safeguard the rights of war victims, I reaffirm our commitment to the universally accepted and recognized norms of international law.

The world knows Azerbaijan has been subjected to Armenia's aggression for over five years. The creation of a serious threat to Azerbaijan's independence and territorial integrity is not the only problem. Hundreds of our peaceful citizens have become refugees in their own homeland, and thousands of people have been taken hostage by the Armenians.

We condemned the unjust war Armenia launched against Azerbaijan on the first day of fighting. We condemn the oppression and horrible incidents in the war today. We grieve a great deal for the pain suffered by the children, the tears shed by mothers, and the sad fate of thousands of people. Regrettably, the bloodshed continues, and it seems the people's suffering will not end.

In appealing to you, I wish to note the irreplaceable value of the 1949 Geneva Convention on the protection of the rights of war victims, which Azerbaijan recently signed. I also wish to note that your conference will at least partly ease the suffering of innocent people affected by war and the decisions you will adopt will be regarded as mechanisms for the work that is required.

We are [words indistinct] and wish to contribute toward your promising initiatives. I wish to reassure you that Azerbaijan's people will never abandon their own territory and will work to further strengthen mutual friendship and agreement among peoples.

Aliyev Criticizes Inactivity of Russia, UN, CSCE

LD2808203593 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 28 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Geydar Aliyev, head of the Azerbaijan National Assembly, called for Russia to act more decisively in a radically changing situation. Stressing that Armenians are fighting on foreign territory, Geydar Aliyev at the same time spoke critically of the activity of international organizations in settling the conflict, including the Security Council and the CSCE.

Violations Alleged in 'Referendum of Confidence'

NC3008181793 Baku TURAN in English 1302 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Baku, August 30 (TURAN)—To the reports of the press-center of the Popular [People's] Front of Azerbaijan [PFA] the referendum of confidence to President Elchibey went on with serious violations in some regions. As this source told TURAN Agency, a numerous facts of violation and open forgery were registered in many regions. Besides, cases of political and physical pressure upon the opposition members of election commissions, who refused to sign the falsified results were registered.

To the words of the chairman of the Election Commission of PFA Tair Kerimli, a number of election districts sent the voting summons to the people, who passed away long ago. Besides, the cases, when one elector voted for the number of his relatives were fixed. T. Kerimli qualified such cases as the violation of the procedure of voting.

The deputy-chairman of the PFA Arif Ragimov in his talks with TURAN's correspondent confirmed the fact of holding the referendum in Nakhichevan. Together with this, he noted, that the number of the participants of referendum is more or less than the official reports run. A. Ragimov said that the falsification of the results of voting is undoubtful.

Electoral Commission Head Reacts

LD3008210493 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1900 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] [Announcer Valeriy Vinogradov] As we have just heard, the head of the press service of Azerbaijan's Central Electoral Commission, (Rafael Nagiyev), has officially refuted a report by INTERFAX that 93 percent of the republic's citizens who took part in the referendum on 29 August had no confidence in President Elchibey. He based his statement on the fact that so far 20 areas in Azerbaijan, including the Republic of Nakhichevan, had not yet returned voting results. The preliminary results of the referendum will be known only tomorrow afternoon, Nagiyev added.

'Mistrust' of Elchibey Shown

LD3008125893 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1245 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Moscow August 30 TASS—93 per cent of Azeris who came to the polls at the Sunday [29 August] referendum expressed mistrust to President Abulfaz Elchibey, deputy Azeri ambassador in Moscow told TASS on Monday quoting first results.

Guseynov also said that according to the central vote-counting commission 92 per cent of the electorate came to the polls.

Commentary Views Referendum

NC3008190593 Baku Radio Baku International Service in Azeri 1300 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] A referendum was held in Azerbaijan on confidence in President Abulfaz Elchibey on 29 August. Elchibey is currently in Keleki village in the western part of Azerbaijan. He suddenly left Baku for Keleki in mid-June. Geydar Aliyev, chairman of the Azerbaijan Parliament, has been executing the presidential powers in the republic since Elchibey's departure to Keleki.

The people have actively participated in the referendum on confidence in Elchibey. According to an official report by the Central Election Council, 90 percent of the electorate participated in the voting. The reports on the voting indicate that the majority of the voters have cast a negative vote against President Elchibey. The local and foreign mass media have reported that information.

An official statement will be made on the outcome of the referendum during the next few days. We shall convey that information to you.

Acting President Geydar Aliyev has said that presidential elections will be held in accordance with the republic's Constitution in the next three months if President Elchibey fails to secure the support of the people in the referendum. He said: The outcome of the referendum will contribute toward stability in the republic and strengthen Azerbaijan's capability to defend itself against foreign aggression.

The international observers, who followed the referendum in Azerbaijan, have expressed the view that the voting was held in accordance with democratic principles. President Elchibey's defeat in the referendum will be because the majority of Azerbaijan's people have been very dissatisfied with the Azerbaijan People's Front's activities and policy in social and political life. The Azerbaijan People's Front, which is headed by Ebulfaz Elchibey, had allowed the prestige of its administration to weaken so much during the past year that it seemed that its fate was determined long before the referendum was held.

Abulfaz Elchibey [words indistinct]. The decision he made to secretly leave Baku and live in Keleki without informing anyone [words indistinct]. Discussing his supporters and the officials around him will be a waste of time.

The National Assembly has clarified many problems and helped the people realize who is who. Geydar Aliyev, who is known as an international statesman and politician, is capable of maintaining a determined stand and taking practical steps to remove the crisis in the republic. He has confirmed that by removing the threat of a possible fratricide in Azerbaijan. Relying on the people, he put resolute measures [words indistinct]. Azerbaijan's people are convinced that Geydar Aliyev will remove the crisis in the republic with their support.

Georgia

Kobalia's Troops Seek To Restore Gamsakhurdia

LD3008171993 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 1500 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Today, our correspondent got in touch with Senaki and spoke with Gotcha Arachemia, the head of one of the operational services of the armed formations of the former president's supporters.

According to his reports, there is complete quiet and order in Senaki, Khobi, Abasha, and all the towns and rayons occupied by Kobalia. The commandants appointed by Kobalia are performing the functions of authorities. A curfew is in force from 2000 to 0700.

According to Gotcha Arachemia's words, the aim of Kobalia's armed formation is to restore peacefully the power of the former president [Zviad Gamsakhurdia] in Georgia. We are refraining from comments this time. Everybody is entitled to his or her own point of view, but we would like to say that what happened in Senaki, Khobi and Abasha, on 28 August on the day of Mariam [Virgin Mary], cannot be called a peaceful way.

Gamsakhurdia Issues Statement

LD3008193093 Moscow Russian Television Network in Russian 1600 GMT 30 Aug 93

[From the "Vesti" newscast]

[Text] Our Abkhaz correspondent reported today that the Abkhaz side has information about the Georgian side having some Abkhaz POW's and volunteers who fought on the side of Abkhazia. However, as is known, the Georgian side denies this.

According to the press center of the Georgian Ministry of Internal Affairs, the situation in the Republic's western regions remains tense. Gamsakhurdia's supporters are still blockading highways and railways linking Tbilisi and the Black Sea port of Poti.

Today we received a statement by Zviad Gamsakhurdia which says that the restoration of legitimate power has begun in western Georgia and that the legal armed forces under the command of Kobalia forced illegal formations out of the towns of Senaki and Khobi. In his statement Gamsakhurdia denies rumors that Kobalia's troops plan to bombard the port of Poti.

Ajarian Leader Appeals to Kobalia

LD3108101193 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0400 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] In connection with the current situation in Samegrelo, Aslan Abashidze, chairman of the Supreme Council of Ajaria, has sent a letter to Vakhtang Kobalia, which says:

Batono Vakhtang, not a long time ago we agreed that we would do everything to avoid fratricidal bloodshed which could throw the whole of Georgia into the chaos of civil war. You accepted my request to withdraw your military units from Senaki and Khobi, if troops of the Ministry of the Interior were to be deployed there to protect the local population. We also agreed that a commission would be set up which would monitor the implementation of this agreement.

In connection with the above issues I invited Jaba Ioseliani and Temur Khachishvili to Batumi [words indistinct]. This issue was discussed and agreed with Mr. Eduard Shevardnadze. A decision was made that I would personally lead this commission.

Tension in the Samegrelo region reached its climax over the last few days. You have explained to me that the reason for this was the killing of your unarmed fighters. We should not rule out that it was a premeditated provocation to create tension [words indistinct].

You know well how we had to pay for mistakes in Abkhazia. The emergence of a new conflict in any region of Georgia, would be catastrophic for the country's territorial integrity [words indistinct].

Gamsakhurdia Newspaper Protests 'Persecution'

AU2508172593 Tbilisi IBERIA-SPEKTRI in Georgian 18-24 Aug 93 p 16

["Appeal to Tedo Ninidze, Republic of Georgia Procurator General," from the editorial staff of SAKARTVELOS SAMREKLO: "They Are Persecuting the Newspaper!"]

[Text] A campaign to actively protect the "authorities," which calls for the suppression of differing opinions and the persecution of "different-minded persons," the free press, and journalists is underway today in Georgia.

The struggle against the newspaper SAKARTVELOS SAMREKLO ["The Belfry of Georgia," a weekly newspaper supporting deposed President Gamsakhurdia] has acquired a particular and systematic character. The state publishing house "Samshoblo" is refusing to compose the newspaper. There have been cases of copies of our newspaper being destroyed in different towns. The distributors of our newspaper are being persecuted and physically attacked. Recently, proceedings were initiated for the second time against SAKARTVELOS SAMREKLO for publishing a translation from this year's April edition of the foreign journal SOVIET ANALYST, which is a gross violation of the press law and international press freedom principles.

Law enforcement representatives and certain "unknown" armed persons are systematically calling upon the newspaper's employees at their apartments. Professor Elizbar Javelidze, the newspaper's editor-in-chief and corresponding member of the Academy of Sciences, is being persecuted.

Investigator Goderdzi Khizanishvili is conducting an inquiry into the gross violation of the press law and human rights.

International human rights organizations and the International Organization of Journalists have already been informed about all this. We ask that there a halt be put to illegal actions against the newspaper and its editorial staff.

[Signed] The editorial staff of SAKARTVELOS SAMREKLO

Commission Observes Withdrawal of Equipment From Abkhazia

Discusses Evacuation of Heavy Equipment

LD3108102493 Tbilisi Radio Tbilisi Network in Georgian 0812 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Text] The press center of the Georgian Armed Forces in Abkhazia told the Kontakt Information Agency this morning that on 30 August a [tripartite] commission meeting was held which discussed the evacuation by Russian amphibious ships of heavy military equipment belonging to the Georgian Armed Forces. At the proposal of Sergey Shoygu, the Russian chairman of the tripartite commission, it was decided that from now on meetings of the tripartite commission on a conflict settlement in Abkhazia will be held in Sukhumi.

Today Georgian representatives are visiting Shroma and Akhalsheni to pick up the bodies of Georgian soldiers killed in the area.

Russian Ship Will Remove Georgian Armor

LD3008144293 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1407 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi August 30 TASS—Georgian armour will be withdrawn from Abkhazia by a Russian landing ship in three days, according to Sergey Shoygu, chairman of the Russian State Committee on Emergency Situations.

He told TASS on Monday [30 August] after talks with Georgian and Abkhazian envoys that the craft will make three-four voyages from Sukhumi and will withdraw 45 tanks, 58 cannons and other heavy equipment. Breech-blocks of the weapons will be dismantled during transportation.

Shoygu added that the tri-lateral joint commission monitoring the pullout and the settlement of the conflict will move from Sochi to Sukhumi on Thursday.

Machinery Withdrawn From Abkhazia

LD3008183593 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1721 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchyogoleva]

[Text] Sochi August 30 TASS—280 units of military machinery and artillery have been withdrawn by the Georgian side from positions on the eastern front to the districts of concentration, including 110 units beyond the borders of Abkhazia, according to the press center of the Russian part of the joint commission on the settlement in Abkhazia.

The Abkhazian side on the eastern front has removed 42 units of heavy weapons to the districts of concentration. Breech-blocks and sights were taken off from all military weapons and handed over to Russian military troops for storage, the press center reported.

Release of Georgian POW's 'Remains Undecided'

LD3108102993 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1004 GMT 31 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Irina Shchegoleva]

[Text] Sochi August 31 TASS—On Tuesday [31 August] the members of the joint commission for a settlement of the conflict in Abkhazia are making a regular inspection of the availability of combat hardware in the cities of Sukhumi and Gudauta. A Russian large amphibious ship is to arrive at the port of loading of Georgian combat hardware later Tuesday.

An issue concerning the release of 26 Georgian prisoners-of-war by the Abkhazian side remains undecided so far. Beslan Kobakhiya, chairman of the Commission on POWs, denied information from Georgian sources that the Abkhazian side refuses to exchange POWs until Georgian troops are withdrawn, a spokesman at the press service of the Abkhazian parliament told ITAR-TASS.

Kobakhiya stated that the Georgian side, in point of fact, insists not on an exchange of POWs but on a one-sided release of Georgian servicemen. He said the Abkhazian side "knows for certain that Abkhazian army servicemen, whose names are kept secret, are held captive by the Georgians."

Members of the Russian part of the working group, which is part of the joint commission on refugee and POW problems, commented on that information as follows: The three-sided commission checked those areas where, as supposed by the Abkhahazin side, servicemen were held captive, and established that there are no Abkhazian POWs in the above-mentioned places. Thereby, the members of the Russian part of the working group believe, the fact that there are no Abkhazian POWs held by the Georgian side was recorded.

"We are prepared to check new suppositions and leads by the Abkhazian side about places where POWs may be kept," Nikolay Chulkov, a member of the working group and representative of Russia's Federal Migration Service, told ITAR-TASS. "However, there have been so far no official applications on that score from the Abkhazian side," he said.

Abkhaz Violations of Cease-Fire Reported

LD3008204093 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1730 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] [no dateline as received] Despite an apparent implementation of the cease-fire agreement in Abkhazia, the Gudauta side is continuously breaching it, the Defense Council Press Center of the Autonomous Republic of Abkhazia reports.

For instance, Abkhaz armed formations have not been pulled out from the positions in Tkvarcheli Rayon, and their combat equipment is not concentrated in the village of Chlou, as has been envisaged by the agreement. The bodies of the Georgian soldiers who fell in the battles for Kamani and Guma have not been handed over. The Georgian members of the Tripartite Commission have not been allowed to inspect the state of warships.

According to data from the Georgian side, the Gudauta group presented data of about only 20 percent of its combat equipment to the Tripartite Commission, ignoring the presence of air defense equipment and fighter planes.

Instances of attacks on the civilian population on the Sukhumi-Ochamchire-Tkvarcheli highway have increased. There is every reason to presume that these are the acts of gang formations of the Gudauta side.

The stance of the Russian mass media is exasperating. They are constantly reporting about the breach of the agreement by the Georgian side, stressing an accurate adherence to the agreement by the Gudauta group.

Abkhaz Salvation Group Adopts Draft on Statehood

LD2508211593 Tbilisi CONTACT INFORMATION AGENCY in Russian 1830 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] A draft bill on the legal status and statehood of Abkhazia within the state of Georgia has been adopted at the session of the presidium of the Abkhazian salvation committee. The preamble of the draft states the following:

Abkhazia is a historically developed state formation of Abkhazians and Georgians, related peoples, which has the sovereign right to self-government within the state of Georgia.

Abkhazians, being less in number than Georgians living in Abkhazia, are guaranteed to retain their originality and to reinforce and develop already established forms of self-determination. These rights are to be observed in accordance with international norms under the conditions of territorial and political integrity of the Georgian state, the complete equality of the citizens of Abkhazia, and the declaration on human rights and minority groups.

Abkhazia is a parliamentary republic within the Georgian state. The republic of Abkhazia has its own flag, coat-of-arms, and national anthem, and these are the symbols of its national self-determination and unity with Georgia determined by the law. The official languages in the republic of Abkhazia are Abkhazian and Georgian.

Other significant clauses have been included in the draft bill.

Shevardnadze Optimistic on Abkhazia

MK2708114093 Moscow SEGODNYA in Russian No. 46, 27 Aug 93 (signed to press 26 Aug) p 4

[Interview with head of state Eduard Shevardnadze by Nodar Broladze in Tbilisi under the "Exclusive" rubric: "Georgian Leader Assesses Outcome of Conflict in Abkhazia. Eduard Shevardnadze: The Russian Factor Must Be Taken Into Account"; date not given]

[Text] [Broladze] How do you assess the present state of affairs in Abkhazia?

[Shevardnadze] Developments in the conflict zone give optimism. The sides are not only honoring provisions of the 27 July cease-fire agreement, but are also trying to speed up this process if possible. While not everything is going smoothly, armed formations and equipment are being gradually withdrawn from Abkhazian territory. I am seriously worried about the problem of refugees who must return to their homes. Georgians and Abkhazians, I believe, will again live together. A bitter lesson is to be learned and serious conclusions should be drawn from what happened. The conflict in Abkhazia is the first one on the territory of the ex-USSR in whose settlement the United Nations is participating on a full scale. This means that responsibility for the establishment of order and peace is borne by the international community as a whole—in the shape of the United Nations, its Security Council, European structures, and NATO. Throughout the 11 months of armed clashes, I have repeatedly said that these organizations should react in a more principled manner to such events, without limiting their significance to the confines of this or that region. Western public opinion has fundamentally changed recently. One example is the speed, unusual for the United Nations, of solving the questions on sending international observers to Abkhazia, and on the formation of peacemaking forces.

[Broladze] Should the separatist movements in the Abkhaz and Ossetian autonomous areas be regarded not only as resulting from the activities of local leaders, but also as a reaction to radical manifestations of Georgian nationalism at the end of the 1980's?

[Shevardnadze] Spokesmen for the national movement stated at the sessions of Georgia's parliament in recent months that such errors of judgment had taken place. They realized that, far from always, they had acted after careful deliberation, thus causing estrangement of the national minorities and provoking their negative reaction. They should have apparently been offered a number of social guarantees, their trust and support should have been won, and there should have been joint participation in the movement for independence.

[Broladze] Russia's role in the Abkhaz conflict has been interpreted in various ways throughout these months. Personally, you constantly maintained: "The keys to a settlement are with Moscow." Could not the agreement have been signed earlier?

[Shevardnadze] A question might be asked: Why is it that Georgia is trying to settle this conflict for a third time running in alliance with Russia, of all countries? What is this—some special attachment to that country? Right from the start of the military conflict, we were doing all we could to prevent it from spreading and causing bloodshed involving tens of thousands of people, and drawing nations and countries into the quagmire. True, for some time we used to lose patience over the situation. In particular, the Moscow agreement of 3 September 1992 did not work which, apparently, was to the advantage of certain circles in Moscow and Gudauta. Neither did another document—of 14 May—justify itself. Still, those steps were not in vain. Had there been no talks, meetings, or pledges signed by the sides, the responsibility would not have been like it is. Russia, too, would have been proven to lack the legal mechanisms to stop the aggressive advance of armed formations in Abkhazia that originated on Russia's territory on a number of occasions.

The Russian factor is a reality that cannot be discounted. Attempts to settle the conflict ignoring Russia's role would have led to serious complications. Let us recall that it was not yesterday, but much earlier, that we turned to good UN offices, but practical results have only been received recently. Orienting ourselves to Russia, we were looking for a practical way to peace. History has yet to say its word, but our supporters and opponents should understand that if this real situation is disregarded, the conflict settlement process would again become complicated. It is no accident that practical diplomacy in advanced countries believes that the real power of a state lies in its readiness and political will to conduct talks, rather than in its ability to conduct war.

[Broladze] Opposition spokesmen reprove you for trusting Russia too much, especially at present, in the process of settling the conflict and acting on the terms of the agreement....

[Shevardnadze] Time will tell who is right. I base my actions on a thorough analysis of events happening in and outside Russia. That country's external and internal policy requirements, the state of its economy, finances, the nature of relations between the autonomous formations, the complicated situation in the North Caucasus—all these things objectively call for a speedy settlement to the Abkhaz conflict. In no case could Russia be interested in continuing bloodshed on its borders.

[Broladze] Does it not seem to you that you and Mr. Yeltsin essentially have the same political adversaries? Also, do you not think that the question of drawing closer together, consolidation and coordination of democratic forces of Georgia, Russia, and the other former USSR republics is extremely topical today?

[Shevardnadze] Yes, this is the way that should be followed, and I would support this process. What is happening now should have started earlier. They have started to realize everywhere in the world—primarily this applies to the U.S. Administration, Russian leadership, a whole number of other countries—that there can be no local conflicts: a tiny spark can cause a big fire. It is largely this circumstance with which the stepped-up diplomatic activity in the United States and other Western countries in regard to the situation in Abkhazia is connected. The main conclusion, to my mind, consists in that territorially Georgia, as a single state, is indivisible. Any attempt to prove the opposite, from whatever quarter it comes—from outside or from the internal separatist movements—is doomed to failure.

No problem can be solved through war. A policy of pressure and diktat rules out chances of cooperation. I can see favorable prospects and believe in the revival of optimal relations on a principally new basis, because I believe in the final triumph of democratic forces in Russia.

[Broladze] Mr. Shevardnadze, how do you assess the results of the talks with the Russian president on 23 August?

[Shevardnadze] I am satisfied with the results of the meeting with Boris Nikolayevich Yeltsin, and mainly so, with discussing the questions of a settlement in Abkhazia. Mutual satisfaction was also voiced with the progress of implementation of the 27 July agreement. We highly assessed the active part of the United Nations and international observers. I think that at this stage the maximum of what is possible to do to stop the bloodshed is being done, and the results are in evidence. The main task now is to encourage a more active return of the refugees, who number 140,000.

The most important problem for Georgia as a whole, as well as for Abkhazia, and the Tskhinvali region, is the economy, which is in a profound crisis. Winter is nearing, and we badly need energy resources. We discussed these problems with the Russian Federation president. Our problems were appreciated although I do not think they can all be solved at once. But it seems to me that we are now finding correct solutions because mutual understanding has been reached on many problems.

Ingush Delegation Meets Shevardnadze

LD3008170893 Tbilisi First Program Television Network in Georgian 1600 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] Today, Eduard Shevardnadze, the chairman of the Georgian parliament and head of state, received the Ingush delegation led by Ruslan Aushev, the president of the Republic of Ingushetia.

The Ingush and Georgian people have had friendly relations for centuries, said Aushev. We value and cherish these traditions. Ingush people will never forget the kindness that the population of Georgia showed toward us in the most difficult time when the Ingush people returned to their historical home. We think that these relationships are on the threshold of a new development and both sides should facilitate this process.

The head of the Georgian state said that Georgians had a special attitude toward the Ingush people and that they trust them. This must become a basis for future relations between our peoples.

It was mentioned at the meeting that establishing close economic links between our republics and developing mutually beneficial cooperation was very important. It would help to stabilize the situation in the Caucasus, as well as develop friendship between Ingushetia and Georgia.

Two South Ossetian Officials Dismissed

LD3008164393 Moscow ITAR-TASS World Service in Russian 1438 GMT 30 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent]

[Text] Vladikavkaz, Aug 30—The situation in the area of the state of emergency on the territory of North Ossetia remains tense. This was stated by members of the session of the Security Council of the republic which was held today.

From Tskhinvali [South Ossetia] a report came in today that Torez Kulembekov, the chairman of the South Ossetian Republic's Supreme Soviet, had issued a decree dismissing Alan Chochiyev, the first deputy head of parliament, and Oleg Teziyev, the chairman of the Council of Ministers of the republic. Torez Kulumbekov explained the decree by the fact that Alan Chochiyev and Oleg Teziyev had not lived in South Ossetia for almost a year, and had not been taking part in the sociopolitical and economic life of the republic, while their views did not reflect the opinions of the overwhelming majority of South Ossetian residents.

Local observers believe that the decree by Torez Kulumbekov, the chairman of the Supreme Soviet of the republic, may contribute to the worsening of the sociopolitical situation in South Ossetia.

Parliament Issues Visa Law for Foreigners

AU2608150693 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 5 Aug 93 p 2

["Republic of Georgia Law on the Temporary Arrival and Stay in the Republic of Georgia and Departure From It of Foreigners"; issued in Tbilisi on 27 July 1993]

[Text] **Chapter I General Regulations**

Article 1. The Law on the Temporary Arrival and Stay in the Republic of Georgia and Departure From It of Foreigners determines:

a) The temporary arrival in and departure from the Republic of Georgia of foreigners (citizens of a foreign state or stateless persons);

b) Legal relations connected with the life of foreigners who are temporarily staying in the Republic of Georgia;

c) Legal relations connected with the transit of foreigners through the territory of the Republic of Georgia;

d) Responsibility for violating this law.

Article 2. Legislation on the temporary arrival and stay in the Republic of Georgia and departure from it of foreigners is formulated by this law, the Republic of Georgia Law on the Legal Position of Foreigners, and other Republic of Georgia legislative acts.

Chapter II The Temporary Arrival of Foreigners in the Republic of Georgia

Article 3. Foreign citizens with valid foreign passports and stateless persons on the basis of valid identification documents issued by the appropriate bodies in their country of permanent residence, enter the Republic of Georgia from checkpoints on the Republic of Georgia border that are open for international communications, if these foreign citizens and stateless persons have an entry, entry-exit, exit-entry, and multiple exit-entry visa for the Republic of Georgia.

Article 4. A temporary entry and entry-exit visa for the Republic of Georgia is issued by a Republic of Georgia diplomatic or consular representation.

Article 5. A temporary entry visa for the Republic of Georgia is issued on the following grounds:

1. A private visit:

a) A tourist trip.

A temporary entry visa for a tourist trip in the Republic of Georgia is issued for a fee on the basis of an application from the interested person; the fee is determined by the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers.

A temporary tourist entry visa is valid for three months from the day of its issue;

b) An invitation from a citizen of the Republic of Georgia or person permanently resident in the Republic of Georgia.

A temporary entry visa issued on this basis is valid for six months from the day of its issue;

c) An invitation from a medical establishment in the Republic of Georgia.

The duration of a temporary entry visa issued on this basis will be determined by the necessary period of treatment;

d) Participation in a trial;

Notification from the court will form the basis for issuing a visa.

The duration of a visa issued on this basis will be determined by the time period necessary for participation in the trial.

2. Business visit.

Those persons who are interested in establishing economic ties with juridical persons registered in the Republic of Georgia will be given a visa on the basis of an invitation from the juridical person or, if they do not have such an invitation, for a fee on the basis of an application from the interested person. The fee is determined by the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers.

A temporary entry visa issued on this basis is valid for six months from the day of its issue.

3. Arrival for the purpose of work:

a) Contract.

The duration of a temporary entry visa issued on this basis is determined by the length of the contract.

A work contract may be concluded with a foreigner only if a Georgian citizen with the appropriate qualifications is unable to do the same work or not a single Georgian citizen expresses the desire to do this work. The final decision on this is taken by the Ministry of Social Security, Labor, and Employment.

b) The arrival in the Republic of Georgia for the purpose of work of foreign employees of juridical persons registered in the Republic of Georgia.

4. To participate in scientific, cultural, and sporting events:

A visa is issued on the basis of an invitation from the organizers of the event.

The duration of a temporary entry visa issued on this basis is determined by the duration of the event.

5. Charity work:

In order to receive a visa, a foreigner or juridical person of a foreign country applies to the appropriate bodies in the Republic of Georgia, on whose recommendation a visa is issued.

A temporary entry visa issued on this basis is valid for six months from the day of its issue.

6. Arrival for the purpose of study:

A visa is issued on the basis of an invitation from an educational establishment.

The duration of a temporary entry visa issued on this basis is determined by the length of the educational process.

7. Other cases provided for in Republic of Georgia legislation.

If the duration of a temporary stay in the Republic of Georgia does not exceed three months, an entry-exit visa may be issued.

Article 6. A multiple entry-exit visa may be issued on the basis of an application from the organization inviting and hosting the foreigner or a personal application. An application for a multiple entry-exit visa is to be submitted to the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs or internal affairs bodies in accordance with their subordination status.

Multiple entry-exit visas are to be issued to:

1. Investors;

2. Foreigners who are actively cooperating with juridical persons registered in the Republic of Georgia;

3. Foreign bosses of juridical persons registered in the Republic of Georgia and management officials and employees who, due to the nature of their work, have to commute to the Republic of Georgia;

4. Other persons stipulated in Republic of Georgia legislation.

Article 7. The duration of temporary entry visas for the Republic of Georgia should not exceed five years.

Temporary entry visas for the Republic of Georgia are extended by internal affairs bodies in accordance with their subordination status and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs according to the procedure established by the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers.

Article 8. Foreigners are prohibited from entering the Republic of Georgia on the basis of Article 23 of the Republic of Georgia Law on the Legal Position of Foreigners.

Chapter III The Legal Position Concerning the Life of Foreigners Who Are Temporarily Staying in the Republic of Georgia

Article 9. Foreigners temporarily staying in the Republic of Georgia live on the territory of the country according to rules established by the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers and holding registered foreign passports. The presentation of foreign passports for registration takes place at a designated point within three days of arrival, excluding holidays.

The passports of foreigners temporarily staying in the Republic of Georgia are registered by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, internal affairs bodies, and hotels.

Article 10. The following foreigners are exempt from having their passports registered:

a) The heads of foreign states and governments, the members of governmental and parliamentary delegations, and also the leaders of international organizations and members of delegations who have arrived in the Republic of Georgia at the invitation of Republic of Georgia supreme bodies of state power and administration, and also the technical personnel attached to these delegations, and the family members of the aforementioned persons;

b) Foreigners under the age of 18;

c) Foreigners who have arrived in the Republic of Georgia on holidays or for only three working days;

d) Foreign tourists participating in a cruise;

e) The crew members of foreign military vessels and aircraft that have arrived in the Republic of Georgia according to established procedure.

The crew members of military vessels and aircraft come onto the territory of the Republic of Georgia on the basis of permission from the senior border (military) commander at a Georgian port (garrison) according to the plan for receiving visiting vessels (military aircraft);

f) The crew members of a civilian vessel during their stay at ports in the Republic of Georgia and also while on excursions to other towns in the Republic of Georgia.

Shore permits are issued to the aforementioned persons by representatives of the border troops in accordance with the established procedure;

g) The crew of civilian aircraft belonging to an international airline and international trains during their stay at those airports and railway stations that are designated in current flight and train timetables.

Article 11. The foreign passports of the following persons are registered in the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs:

a) The heads of foreign diplomatic representations and consular establishments, the members of diplomatic personnel, officials in consular establishments, the administrative and technical and service personnel of diplomatic establishments, the apparatus of the military attache and employees in trade representations, and the

members of their families, and also the guests of the heads of diplomatic representations and consular establishments if they are living in their residencies or these representations and establishments;

b) The employees of departments of foreign affairs of other countries holding diplomatic and service passports who have arrived in the Republic of Georgia on official business and the members of their families;

c) Officials from international organizations who have arrived in the Republic of Georgia on official business, the employees of representations of these organizations in the Republic of Georgia, and also the employees of representations accredited to international organizations whose headquarters are also in the Republic of Georgia and who, on the basis of the statutory documents of the given organizations or appropriate international treaties, enjoy diplomatic privileges and immunity, and also the members of their families.

The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs and its representations give the aforementioned persons diplomatic or service cards or record the registration directly in their foreign passports.

Article 12. The Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs is given the right, if necessary, to register the foreign passports of state and public figures who have arrived in the Republic of Georgia from other countries and the members of their families when an application to do so is submitted by the organizations, diplomatic representations, and consular establishments receiving and hosting them and also to register the foreign passports of those employees of international organizations who are not mentioned in Article 10 of this law. In such cases, foreigners are exempt from having their passports registered in hotels and internal affairs bodies.

Article 13. The passports of foreigners living in hotels are registered in these hotels no matter what the reasons are for their arrival and how long they are staying in the Republic of Georgia except for the passports of those persons stipulated in Articles 10 and 11 of this law.

Article 14. The passports of those foreigners who are not stipulated in Articles 10, 11, 12, and 13 of this law are registered in the internal affairs bodies.

Chapter IV The Legal Position of Foreigners Who Are Transiting the Territory of the Republic of Georgia

Article 15. Foreigners can transit the territory of the Republic of Georgia with a valid foreign passport and transit visa issued by a Republic of Georgia diplomatic or consular establishment or, if there is no such representation, by another body stipulated in Republic of Georgia legislation.

Article 16. A transit visa is issued with the right to stop in one or several points on the territory of the Republic of Georgia according to the shortest route of travel to a neighboring country.

Article 17. The following have the right to transit the territory of the Republic of Georgia without a visa:

a) Aircraft passengers, if permission has been given in advance to cross the country's air space;

b) Passengers flying on international airlines who have to change flights, if they have a document giving them the right to travel to their country of destination and a plane ticket showing the date of their departure from the airport in Georgia where they are to change flights and provided that their stay in the Republic of Georgia does not exceed 24 hours. At the same time, passengers do not have the right to leave the area specially designated for them in the airport.

c) The citizens of those countries with whom the Republic of Georgia has a corresponding agreement.

Article 18. Foreigners can transit the territory of the Republic of Georgia by motor transport, including international freight carriers, only along roads open for international communications.

Article 19. Foreigners transiting the Republic of Georgia, who are forced to stop on the territory of the Republic of Georgia for more than 24 hours, are obliged to obtain a permit to stay in the Republic of Georgia from the internal affairs bodies within 24 hours of their stop.

A forced stop is considered to be:

a) A natural calamity that prevents travel by train, motor transport, ship, or plane;

b) Essential repairs to a form of transport or an accident en route;

c) An illness that, according to the diagnosis of a doctor, would endanger the health of the sick traveler if he were to continue immediately on his journey. In such a case, the members of the sick person's family and accompanying persons may remain with him;

d) When there are delays at terminals in changing from one form of transport to another.

During his forced stop, a foreigner has the right to remain only within the limits of that populated locality where the incident has occurred until the causes of the forced stop have been removed.

The duration of a transit visa is extended and a permit procured to remain in the place where he has been forced to stop on the basis of a personal application from the foreigner and the submission of a document obtained from the appropriate bodies that confirms the reason for the forced stop and its duration.

Chapter V The Departure From the Territory of the Country of Foreigners Who Have Been Temporarily Staying in the Republic of Georgia

Article 20. Foreigners who have been staying temporarily in the Republic of Georgia leave the territory of the

country via border checkpoints that are open for international communications armed with a valid foreign passport or on the basis of an identification document provided they have an exit or exit-entry visa for the Republic of Georgia.

Article 21. Exit and exit-entry visas are issued by the Republic of Georgia Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the appropriate internal affairs bodies in accordance with their subordination status.

An exit-entry visa is issued to those foreigners who, within the period of duration of their entry visa, temporarily leave the Republic of Georgia. The duration of an exit-entry visa cannot exceed that of a basic visa.

Article 22. Foreigners who are temporarily staying in the Republic of Georgia are prohibited from leaving the country in accordance with Article 24 of the Republic of Georgia Law on the Legal Position of Foreigners.

Chapter VI The Responsibility of Foreigners Who Are Staying Temporarily in the Republic of Georgia

Article 23. Foreigners bear responsibility for violating this law in accordance with the Law on the Legal Position of Foreigners.

Article 24. Foreigners are expelled from the Republic of Georgia in accordance with Articles 29 and 30 of the Law on the Legal Position of Foreigners.

Chapter VII Concluding Regulation

Article 25. If rules different from those in this law are established in international treaties to which the Republic of Georgia is a signatory, the rules established in those international treaties are to be applied.

[Signed] **Eduard Shevardnadze, chairman of the Georgian Parliament-head of state**
Vakhtang Goguadze, speaker of the Georgian Parliament
[Dated] **Tbilisi, 27 July 1993**

Decrees Law To Take Effect 1 Sep

AU2608151493 Tbilisi SAKARTVELOS RESPUBLIKA in Georgian 5 Aug 93 p 2

["Decree of the Georgian Parliament on the Law on the Temporary Arrival and Stay in Georgia and Departure From It of Foreigners"; issued in Tbilisi on 27 July 1993]

[Text] The Georgian Parliament **decrees**:

1. The Law on the Temporary Arrival and Stay in Georgia and Departure From It of Foreigners is to come into force as of 1 September 1993.

2. To entrust the Republic of Georgia Cabinet of Ministers with elaborating and ratifying within one month the normative acts ensuing from the regulations in this law.

[Signed] **Vakhtang Rcheulishvili, deputy speaker of the Georgian Parliament**
[Dated] **Tbilisi, 27 July 1993**

Lithuania

Officials View 31 Aug Russian Troop Withdrawal

Charge d'Affaires in U.S. Comments

WS2608143393 Tallinn BNS in English 1628 GMT 25 Aug 93

[Text] Washington, Aug 25, BNS—Lithuania's Charge d'Affaires in Washington Stasys Lozoraitis cautioned his government not to link damage compensations with the troop withdrawal.

U.S. officials and the media fully support the withdrawal and the Aug. 31 deadline, he said. The payment for damages can come after later negotiations, he said in an interview broadcast Tuesday [24 August] night.

Lozoraitis claims that the U.S. Administration would support Lithuanian demands for compensations but doesn't like to offend Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

Brazauskas, U.S. Ambassador Meet

WS2708132993 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1429 GMT 26 Aug 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 317a]

[Text] Vilnius, Aug 25 (ELTA)—During President Algirdas Brazauskas' meeting with USA Ambassador to Lithuania Darryl Johnson talks centered upon the suspension of the Russian army pullout. The USA ambassador spoke about the position of USA State Department on the issue. USA approve of political dialogue currently carried on with Russia by the Lithuanian President and the government with the view to find solutions to current problematic situation. Mr Johnson told journalists after the meeting that USA was strongly disappointed over Russia's decision to suspend the army pullout and urged Lithuania to continue a political dialogue. Taking part at the meeting was advisor to president on foreign policy, Justas Paleckis.

Defense Minister Announces Withdrawal

LD3008194993 Vilnius Radio Vilnius in English 1900 GMT 30 Aug 93

[Text] The Lithuanian minister of national defense announced today that the withdrawal of Russian troops from Lithuania will be completed by 3 PM tomorrow [31 August]. Not a single Russian soldier will remain on Lithuanian territory by that time, declared the minister, speaking to journalists in Vilnius.

The last Russian military train taking away the remaining soldiers and military equipment from the Kaunas garrison is expected to cross the Lithuanian-Belarusian border tomorrow afternoon. The last documents on the hand-over of property and territory are to be signed by Minister of National Defense Audrius Butkevicius and Commander of the Russian northwestern army group Leonid Mayorov.

It was planned earlier that the Russian Army would be withdrawn by 28 August, but the celebrations on the occasion were canceled after Russia declared it was suspending the troop pullout.

The BALTIC NEWS SERVICE, meanwhile, has reported with reference to the General Staff of the Lithuanian Armed Forces that about 150 Russian military will remain in Lithuania after 31 August. One hundred of these will stay to guard and prepare for transportation a major munition dump in Linkaiciai, central Lithuania.

Before Russia's decision to suspend troop withdrawal, it was agreed that, for reasons of safety, explosives from that dump will be taken out slowly and the work will be completed later than 31 August.

The munition dump contains about 100,000 tonnes of explosives, half of which has already been taken away from Lithuania. It is expected that the transportation of the explosives will be completed by the new year. During that period, the munition dump will be guarded by 100 Russian soldiers and the Lithuanian military. Yet another 40 Russian officers will remain in Klaipeda until 15 October. They are to prepare for the hand-over the documentation and objects of the coast guard division. [sentence as heard]

Troop Withdrawal 'Resumed'

LD3108120293 Moscow Radio Rossii Network in Russian 1000 GMT 31 Aug 93

[Excerpts] Following yesterday's telephone conversation between Boris Yeltsin and Algirdas Brazauskas, the crisis in Russian-Lithuanian relations seems to have passed. As reported earlier, Lithuania is today ceremonially marking the withdrawal of Russian troops from the republic. The events will begin in Kaunas with the official handover to Lithuania of the 108th Airborne Regiment's base and the departure of a convoy of Russian soldiers back home. This is what we were told by the press attache at the Lithuanian Embassy in Moscow, (Jintaras Jetskunis):

[Begin (Jetskunis) recording] The troop withdrawal has resumed and is proceeding. Vehicles are being loaded and are leaving and we think, in fact we are almost certain, that by 1900 Vilnius time the withdrawal will be largely complete, and the relevant document will have been signed.

A small coordinating group of Russian servicemen will stay on in Lithuania to handle the departure of servicemen's families. [passage omitted] [end recording]

Ambassador Sends Letter to POST

WS3108065993 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1026 GMT 30 Aug 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 319]

[Text] Vilnius, August 29 (ELTA)—The daily newspaper "Washington Post" has published an Ann Devroy article on USA President Bill Clinton's reaction to the suspension of the withdrawal of the Russian army from Lithuania. The article cites critiques to both sided by an unnamed top official of the US Administration Staff. He believes that Lithuanians mistreat Russian minorities in Lithuania. Reacting to this accusation, the Lithuanian Ambassador to the United States Stasys Lozoraitis has send a letter to the editor of the "Washington Post". The statement about mistreatment of the Russian minorities in Lithuania, - the letter replies - is absolutely unfounded. Lithuania has adopted the most liberal law on citizenship which was complemented by the Lithuanian-Russian agreement which extended the deadline of granting the Lithuanian citizenship on favourable conditions to the Russian-spoken population which came after the law on citizenship came into force. Such privilege has not been applied to any other immigrants from the former Soviet Union republics or any foreign country. The letter also indicates that minority rights are protected by a special law. It guarantees state support to cultural organizations of national minorities, education in mother's tongue from preschool institutions up to a higher education establishments. Lithuania is awaiting for a day, writes Stasys Lozoraitis, when Russia follows Lithuania's example and begins to conduct a liberal national minorities' policy including adoption of a law protecting rights of tens of thousands of Lithuanians who are currently residing in the territory of the Russian Federation. Lithuania was forced to suffer occupation by a strange country and to go through what now would be prohibited for even one year or even month. Russia must leave immediately, - ends his letter Ambassador.

Moscow Unwilling To Confirm Kaliningrad's Autonomous Status

WS2708150193 Vilnius RESPUBLIKA in Lithuanian 13 Aug 93 No. 155 p 15

[Article by Sigitas Kuras, newspaper correspondent in Kaliningrad: "The Duchess Wants a Republic"]

[Text] It goes without saying that for Moscow's authorities, their own matters come first. This is what Kaliningrad inhabitants think. It turned out that for almost a year, Moscow did not know about the existence of a "patch" of land called Kaliningrad Oblast. This news was published in the world's biggest daily ARGUMENTY I FAKTY. Millions of Russians read a new joke: Russia and Lithuania have no borders!

The Kaliningrad administration had to wash this disgrace "with blood." The Far East and Urals did it for the oblast by declaring themselves republics.

Kaliningrad's friends living abroad also support its autonomy. Duchess (Marianna von Dehnhof) who is known for her charity has stated publicly: "If Kaliningrad does not have a special status, everything will perish."

Three years have passed since the establishment of an economic free zone in the oblast, and the duchess' words have come true. The industry and agriculture of the oblast are collapsing. Last year's losses in cattle breeding account for R1.3 billion. According to the forecasts, the grain harvest will be 42 percent smaller than in 1992.

Most of the inhabitants are disappointed with B. Yeltsin, do not believe in Matochkin, give up on other politicians as hopeless, and stand for radical political changes!

Young people want changes most of all. Every second inhabitant of Kaliningrad, age 25-29, demands a new type of state. There are dozens of different opinions that discuss the political superstructure and the economic basis. Some statistical data are already available.

The area of the new future state is 15,000 square kilometers. Its territory exceeds that of Luxembourg by a factor of six. About 1 million Germans whose parents were forcibly moved from Kaliningrad Oblast to Kazakhstan and different parts of Siberia in 1946 intend to settle in the republic of a new type. The state will be called the Baltic Republic of Germans.

However, one should not forestall events. Presently, Kaliningrad Oblast has 900,000 inhabitants of different nationalities. The majority are Russian (700,000); other ethnic groups—Belarusian and Ukrainian—number 76,000 and 65,000, respectively. That is why new projects for Kaliningrad's status are being proposed.

According to the data of the Kaliningrad Statistics Center, every fifth young citizen supports the independent state. This idea is also backed by officers, law enforcement workers, and leaders of industrial organizations. The new state will undoubtedly be oriented toward Russian national values.

There is much talk about a popular but a slightly unusual option of a condominium (joint rule of states). If this happens, Kaliningrad Oblast will become a Russian, German, Polish, and Lithuanian protectorate. This option is supported mainly by the people with Western views. Yes, the same duchess (Marianna von Dehnhof).

It is yet unclear whether Lithuania will agree to protect Kaliningrad Oblast, but one more possibility is being discussed. It is proposed by V. Anisimov, full-time representative of the Russian Foreign Ministry in Kaliningrad City. He is doing everything to defend the tradition of the center and is urging the abolishment of all those condominiums and Baltic republics. However, I. Matochkin, V. Semionov and other local leaders have already found the "golden means." They have proposed their own project on the status of Kaliningrad: The latter will remain an oblast with special powers.

The local authorities have been waiting for three months to have such a status confirmed! Moscow is in no hurry to approve of Kaliningrad as an independent territorial unit. It is afraid of a chain reaction. Thus, one should expect the traditions of the center to prevail. Moscow is

going to share its power neither with Matochkin nor with the duchess, to say nothing of ordinary people.

Brazauskas Meets Council of Europe's Martinez

LD2608154793 Moscow ITAR-TASS in English 1429 GMT 26 Aug 93

[By ITAR-TASS correspondent Vladas Burbulis]

[Text] Vilnius August 26 TASS—President of the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe Miguel Angel Martinez, who is now in Lithuania for a three-day visit, met the republic's President Algirdas Brazauskas on Thursday [26 August].

The head of Lithuanian state discussed with Martinez the situation in the country after Russia decided to suspend the pull-out of its troops from the republic.

Martinez stressed that he supported the position of the Lithuanian leadership aimed at settling disputes with Russia without confrontation.

Both parties noted the need "for unconditional withdrawal of the Russian Army from Lithuania" and called for a realistic solution not based on illusions".

During a conversation with Lithuanian Sejm Chairman Ceslovas Jursenas Martinez spoke about problems facing the Council of Europe and the forthcoming summit of the heads of state and government of the council's member-countries in Vienna in October. Lithuania recently became an associated member of this international organisation.

Martinez is also due to meet Lithuania's Prime Minister Adolfas slezevicius and members of parliament.

Martinez Holds News Conference

LD2708163493 Vilnius Radio Vilnius Network in Lithuanian 0900 GMT 27 Aug 93

[By Guoda Salciute]

[Text] A news conference, held today by Miguel Angel Martinez, the president of the Parliamentary Assembly of the European Council, summed up the results of the European Council parliamentary delegation's visit in Lithuania.

Mr. Martinez stressed at the beginning that it was the first visit by the European Council delegation after Lithuania's admission to that organization. The planned routine visit, stressed Mr. Martinez, has become extraordinary because of the new circumstance—the suspension of the Russian Army's withdrawal from Lithuania. According to him, the name of Vilnius and Lithuania are once again on the pages of the world press.

At the same time, he expressed in his speech the satisfaction of being able to visit Lithuania as an independent state, occupying a worthy place in European institutions. Mr. Martinez noted that he had many meetings in Lithuania with the country's leaders and representatives of political parties. Although the European Council does not lack information about Lithuania, it has been possible to supplement it with important details.

Speaking of concrete results of the visit, Mr. Martinez stressed that President Algirdas Brazauskas has been invited to Strasbourg, to the European Council session. This visit should take place in January or May.

Speaking of the problems of relations with Russia, Mr. Martinez stressed that he was supporting the stand of the Lithuanian leadership that [indistinct passage].

Asked by journalists whether the European Council would agree to mediate in the relations with Russia, Martinez replied that it would be best if all matters are settled in bilateral negotiations. At the same time, he repeated the fundamental stance of the European Council that no Army can be present on the territory of another country without that country's agreement. This stance has been expressed in statements by the European community.

The distinguished guest also made some remarks about our country's political parties. Instead of uniting and striving for common results during this period of time, according to Mr. Martinez, they are hunting for the electors votes.

Mr. Martinez also spoke of economic aid to Lithuania.

Chinese Trade Commission Delegation Concludes Visit

WS2708132693 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1429 GMT 26 Aug 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 317a]

[Text] Vilnius, Aug 25 (ELTA)—The Chinese commission for development of interstate trade and economic partnership, chaired by Mr Chen Zhiao [as received], Director of European Department at Ministry of Foreign Trade, concluded yesterday it (?three) day visit to Lithuania. Prospects for the development of trade were dealt extensively at the Lithuanian Ministry of Industry and Trade. The Lithuanian and the Chinese parts signed a document on economic cooperation, as well as discussed an agreement under which the Chinese government could allocate a credit amounting to 30 million Chinese yens (US 5 million) to Lithuania, which would enable Lithuania to buy Chinese goods. Lithuania would pay off the credit and 4 percent annual interest rates in three years in the form of Lithuanian goods. The agreement is due to be signed in late November during the Lithuanian delegation's visit to China. The Chinese part expressed regrets over reduction of turnover of goods this year, while Lithuanians spoke of the increase. According to data released at Ministry of Industry and Trade, Lithuania's trade with China amounted to US 1.10 million in 1992, which accounts for 0.09 per cent of Lithuania's total foreign trade. Lithuania's export to

China amounts to US 1 million accounting for 0.14 per cent of total export, import is equal to 0.10 million or 0.02 percent of the total. During the first half of this year, Lithuania's trade turnover with China amounted to US 7.3 million accounting for 0.49 per cent of the total foreign trade, the export making 6.9 million dollars and the import 392.1 thousand dollars. Lithuania imports from China crop, tobacco, tea, spicery, metal and ceramic works as well as textiles and footwear. Lithuania is also interested in buying copper wires, medicines, cotton and synthetic fabrics as well as cotton and wool threads, dyes, material for the production of artificial leather. China imports from Lithuania ferments and fertilizers, non ferrous metals, machines and technological equipment as well as medical and surgery facilities. China is also interested in buying construction materials, meat and diary products, electrical devices, and timber.

Details of Brazauskas Nov Visit to China Given

WS2708132893 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1429 GMT 26 Aug 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 317a]

[Text] Vilnius, Aug 25 (ELTA)—President Algirdas Brazauskas has been invited by his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin to visit China in late November, presidential spokesman Nerijus Maliukevicius told journalists. The president's pending visit was discussed in detail yesterday at his meeting with the Chinese Ambassador to Lithuania, Chen Di. Mr Chen Di paid his last visit to the Lithuanian president before leaving for Kazakhstan capital Alma Ata for a diplomatic mission. Mr Chen Di will be succeeded by another diplomat for an ambassador's post in Lithuania. Lithuanian and Chinese relations were described as positive during the meeting. The two countries have already signed agreements on cooperation in politics, economy, and in technology as well as a consular convention. During the Lithuanian president's visit to China agreements on the promotion and protection of investments, on cultural links and on measures to be taken to evade double taxation are to be signed. According to the presidential advisor Darius Trinkunas, President Brazauskas is to meet with the Chinese authorities in charge of reforms in economy and politics as well as with businesspeople. In addition to his visit in Beijing, the president is also planning to go to Shanghai and to a region of free economic zone. During his meeting with the Chinese diplomat, Mr Brazauskas spoke of a political and economic situation in Lithuania and expressed strong belief in speedy withdrawal of the Russian Army. China is strongly supporting Lithuania's goals, the Chinese ambassador said.

Interpol Bureau Outlines Plan for Pope's Security

WS3108070393 Vilnius ELTA NEWS BULLETIN in English 1026 GMT 30 Aug 93

[From ELTA "NEWS BULLETIN" No. 319]

[Text] Vilnius, August 29 (ELTA)—"We should be quiet about Pope's security in Lithuania, though we have some problems", says Chief Commissar of the Lithuanian Interpol national bureau Aurelijus Racevicius. He is responsible for prevention from international terrorism. A. Racevicius admitted that the major problem is possibility for various criminals to penetrate Lithuanian borders because of weak protection. "We have started two weeks a system plan for detection of persons capable of disturbance during the Pope's visit", he told. A new regime introduced on our borders, issuance entry visas has been suspended for citizens of Muslim countries. Officers of Lithuanian police, immigration, security and other services are investigating matters of persons who came by violating the laws. As a result of a planned action, several tens of illegal aliens have been detained: part of them deported, while several very suspicious-looking have been detained for finding out their personalities. A. Racevicius said about the absence of information on visit by international terrorist organization members in Lithuania. "Few of them were arrested in the end of last year but information about their relation to terrorist gangs came far too late", he recalls. The data via Interpol channels indicating those persons to be international criminals arrived after their release, caused by lack of grounds for further detainecance. "The Hole See's officials responsible for Pope's security criticized us of exaggerated means of security but we intend to carry on our plan", said A. Racevicius. The implementation of this plan will even be more intensive during the remaining week.